

## Precinct 5 Town Meeting Candidates

Eight to be elected for 3 years, seven on the ballot, one write-in candidate (C. Graham)

One to be elected for 2 years, one on the ballot (S. Mnayarji)

If no candidate profile is shown, the candidate did not submit a profile.

(\* indicates incumbent)

**Robert Johnson\***

**Eric Keough\***

**Jason Roeder\***

**Carol Savage\***

csav81@gmail.com

### Community Activities

Winchester Town Meeting Members Association, Vice Chair & Co-Founder, 2022-present

Winchester Town Meeting Communication Study Committee Vice Chair 2021-2022

Winchester Town Meeting Member, 20+ years

Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America

Prior: Advocates for Quality Education, Stand for Children

### Candidate Statement

**What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?**

- Affordability – both property taxes and housing prices
- Economic development
- Communication & community engagement

**What are your positions on these important issues?**

- Winchester has many assets: a reputable school system, a quaint town center with historic structures, natural resources, and picturesque neighborhoods, all within an easy commute to Boston, making it a highly desirable (and expensive) community. Our tiny commercial tax base, and our low state aid pushes up property taxes to among the top 10 in the state, making Winchester unaffordable for young adults (25-35) and seniors who may wish to downsize. As a community so close to the city, we must prioritize and think creatively about the mix in our housing stock and zone for development that effectively balances the town's historic character with affordability.
- The Town's 2030 Master Plan identifies a number of regions for smart grown opportunities that we should be actively pursuing to support our current town businesses and attract new or entrepreneurial business investment and encourage mixed-use (commercial-residential) development that support Winchester's neighborhoods. It is important to provide adequate staffing to the Town Planning Department to be able to

envision and implement policies to sustain a viable business sector, so I support the addition of an assistant town planner as part of our Spring Town Meeting budget.

- I served as Vice Chair of the Communication Study Committee (CSC), which made recommendations for ways that town hall and town meeting could improve communication between town committees and boards and also with residents. I currently serve as Vice Chair of the Winchester Town Meeting Members Association (<https://www.winchestertmma.org>), which was one of CSC's recommendations. Winchester's Town Manager is now working on a Communication Plan. Modernizing our communication efforts will always be important to effective governance.

**Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?**

Fall Town Meeting 2023 was presented with a description of the CPA by a study committee appointed by the Select Board, which announced it would be conducting public information sessions with residents and stakeholder groups prior to spring town meeting on how it would work. These communications have not materialized, so while I am very open to supporting the CPA, I'd like to see more specifics before taking a position on adding a CPA surcharge to our residential taxes.

With or without the CPA, Winchester will need to pass overrides for urgent needs in capital/building maintenance, operating budget, and the Muraco school renovation. I feel it's important for town meeting to understand the vision for CPA uses in Winchester, and how administrative oversight would work in tandem with current processes.

**Ruth Trimarchi\***  
ruthtri@gmail.com

**Community Activities**

- Town Meeting, since 2017
- Board of Health, Chair, since 2022
- Climate Action Advisory Committee, since 2016
- League of Women Voters, since 2015
- Winchester Trails Leader, since 2018

**Candidate Statement**

**What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?**

- Climate Change
- Mental Health
- Creating a more welcoming community

**What are your positions on these important issues?**

- Climate change impacts the quality of life in Winchester, increasing heat, cold, wind/ice, precipitation, SSO events, and mosquitoes, ticks and rats. Winchester's Climate Action Plan increases community resilience and reduces carbon pollution from transportation, heating/cooling buildings
- Mental Health concerns call for more awareness and more finances to reduce individual, family and community suffering
- Addressing DEI opportunities creates a more inclusive Town

**Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?**

- Yes. Winchester has very lean financial resources. CPA monies will broaden our options to protect historical buildings and open spaces, develop outdoor recreational spaces, and increase housing options

**Jacqueline Welch\***

**David Miller**

dmiller204@comcast.net

**Community Activities**

- Conservation Commission, Chair
- Permanent Street Tree Committee
- Housing Partnership Board
- Town Meeting Member Fall 2023 (caucus appointed)
- Community Preservation Act Study Group (current)
- 2030 Master Plan Steering Committee (former)
- Wright Locke Farm Board (former)

**Candidate Statement**

**What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?**

- Finances
- Housing
- Climate Change

**What are your positions on these important issues?**

- Finances: Concerns/Interests: 1) What we spend 2) Where we spend it 3) Where we underspend 4) How can we increase revenue?
- Housing: Concerns/Interests: 1) Intelligent/strategic approach to development 2) Accepting/supporting the need to increase available housing
- Climate Change: Concerns/Interests: 1) Maximizing our resilience efforts across Town (public and private) 2) Minimizing activities that are counter to resilience across Town (public and private). We are all in this together

**Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?**

- Absolutely. The funds generated by the CPA support activities/shared resources/consequential infrastructure that have frequently fallen below the funding line in Winchester. Yet, these features are an essential component of the reasons we love where we live. Their funding is essential to remain available and for there to be any expectation for expansion in the future. Full disclosure, I am a member of a study group (Open Space and Recreation) working towards the adoption of the CPA

## Stefanie Mnayarji

**Connor Graham** (write-in candidate)  
cgraham07@gmail.com

### **Candidate Statement**

I'm Connor Graham and I'd like to help represent Precinct 5 in the Winchester Town Meeting. Although I only moved to Winchester last summer, my wife and I already love this wonderful community, and I'm excited to start learning about the unique needs of the town and its residents, and contributing my insights and perspectives.

Some of those perspectives include passion for technology, the environment, and family. After working in the tech industry for 13 years, I've seen firsthand the ability of technology to transform lives. As a long-time skier, rower, and hiker, I know nature is one of our most valuable resources which must be preserved intentionally for the enjoyment of our children. That includes my son, just born last summer, and I want to make sure he grows up with a strong sense of community in his home town.

Having previously lived in big cities like Seattle, St. Louis, and San Francisco, government felt more like something that happened to you than something you could participate in. I'm eager to start participating and helping to make Winchester the best it can be.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to meeting you around town!

Please **WRITE IN** Connor Graham for Town Meeting, Precinct 5