

Precinct 1 Town Meeting Members 2021

7 for 3 years

Question for Town Meeting Member candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important? What does Lexington do well? What could be improved? How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

Incumbents

Sandhya Beebee

Robert William Cunha

Precinct 1

Robert.Cunha20@gmail.com

781-862-7946

Community Activities

Town Meeting Member (30 years)

Lexington Contributory Retirement Board Chair (32 years)

Permanent Building Committee (New Fire Station)

I believe Lexington does many things extremely well. Starting with the Select Board collaborating with the School Committee, along with all the financial Committees, in developing annual town budgets that meet our many needs without the need to go to the voters for operational overrides. The working of these groups in an open and transparent environment brings all the stake holders together and present an opportunity for community input.

The challenges ahead for future budgets have been made a great deal more reasonable by the decisions to set aside funds in a range of stabilization and reserve accounts. This provides for more gradual budget allocation.

Lexington has developed a long-term Capital Policy which has set the framework for a number of major construction projects spaced over a reasonable timeframe. These include the Children's place preschool, Maria Hasting Elementary School replacement, a new Fire Headquarters Station and the Visitors Center.

Two further major capital projects will need to be addressed. With overcrowding at the High School, the school will need to be renovated, expanded or will need replacement. The Lexington Police Station building project is being reviewed and will need to be addressed.

Lexington has many Community challenges ahead of it. Affordable housing, Diversity Equity/ Social Justice, Hartwell Avenue Zoning, and the Center Streetscape. The community needs to be fully engaged In the dialog leading to the discussion and decisions that will need to be made.

Town Meeting's role in moving the community forward will be to require a thoughtful discussion which brings all points of view forward. The discussion must be thorough and transparent to all points of view.

Carol Sampson

Yingjie Wei

Judith L. Zabin

Precinct 1

E-mail address ajzabin@gmail.com

Phone number 781-861-0956

* Community Activities

Town Meeting Member, Pct. 1 since 1976

Human Services Committee 1981-1986

Lexington League of Women Voters, and RePlace - former chair board member

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important? What does Lexington do well? What could be improved? How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

It is essential to preserve the community values, breadth and quality of municipal services and careful fiscal management so that Lexington serves all its residents. Lexington's town departments as well as its boards and committees work well and cooperatively to ensure efficient and accountable town government. Communication and engagement are two areas that need to continue to develop and grow. In particular, the current initiative of improving racial and social equity throughout the town stemmed -in part- from a Town Meeting Resolution adopted unanimously last spring. To me, this is a good beginning.

New Candidates

Tanya J. Gisolfi-McCready

Precinct: 1

E-mail address: tgismcc@icloud.com

Phone number: 781.862.2260

* Community Activities

Lexington Human Rights Committee, Clerk & Vice Chair

Dismantling Racism, facilitator (providing trainings within Lexington)

Training Active Bystanders, facilitator (providing trainings within Lexington)

300th Celebration of Lexington, committee member

Subcommittee Asian Communities, member

Munroe Center for the Arts, Clerk & past board member

LexPride, member

Special Town Meeting 2020-2, Article 8: Systemic Racism Resolution, team member

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important?

- ***Social Justice***, including a complete review of housing policies to help address equity issues, especially if we want to avoid falling into 40B. For Lexington to be more inclusive and remain an attractive community, it is critical that we have housing options for a continuous range of incomes options, affordable, middle as well as high.
- ***Capital Projects*** for critical town services, for example, addressing infrastructure needs at the high school, and the Police Station, both of which need to be replaced or expanded.
- ***Community Building*** is important now more than ever, ensuring that our resources, leadership, and civic institutions remain focused and committed to building a Town that is cohesive, economically and culturally vibrant, and responsive to the evolving needs of Lexingtonians.

What does Lexington do well?

The Town has excellent financial performance, as measured by its Triple A Bond rating. We have an outstanding and dedicated town staff, and our K-12 education system is historically and consistently strong and well-regarded. We have an especially strong Human Services Department and public library. Cary Library is a leader in many areas and Lexington is truly fortunate to have such a fantastic asset in its building, director, staff, and programing. While I would like to see broader community involvement, Lexington is open to volunteers and getting involved. Lexington is open to social justice initiatives, even while it is an area in which we are working to become better.

What could be improved?

Lexington can do a better job of data collection and transparency. We should continue to expand and diversify our commercial tax base, especially in the Center which lacks the commercial vibrancy and interest found nearby and in similar Massachusetts suburbs of our size and character. We need to have broader community engagement from a greater variety of community members. We must continually endeavor to find ways to engage all our residents to help make Lexington a place that is safe, welcoming, and representative. We can take more steps to encourage residents who choose Lexington for the schools to stay after their children graduate.

How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

As a legislative body in town, we are limited in implementation. However, Town Meeting can support community initiatives, for example Special Town Meeting 2020-2, Article 8, which asked Town Meeting to consider racial and other equity impacts in all decisions and planning processes in order to work toward dismantling systemic racism and vote to support Town operations and management. Town Meeting can help shape both scope and direction of improvements the community needs by voting to appropriate money for well-thought-out budgets, if they provide value to the town.

Yifang Gong

Janet M. Kern

New Candidates

Katherine E. Reynolds

Precinct: 1

E-mail address: kereynolds12@gmail.com

Phone number: 508-245-6316

* Community Activities

LexFUN! Board Member

Harrington PTA volunteer

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

Lexington is a vibrant community that honors our history while providing a wonderful environment for families. I love that Lexington provides a safe community full of opportunities for lifelong learning, enjoyment of green space, and civic engagement. The pandemic has deeply affected our residents, local businesses, and schools. Our conservation land, trails, and open green space are, now more than ever, vital to residents' health and enjoyment.

I would like Lexington to improve its support for small businesses. Numerous local businesses have struggled to remain open in town, and the pandemic has exacerbated the issue. Town

Meeting provides the means for implementing policy and budget decisions that will enable small businesses to thrive in the future.

Town Meeting serves the important purpose of continuing to support our residents and community as Lexington's needs continue to evolve. I am running for Town Meeting, Precinct 1 because I am committed to representing our residents' interests and confident that I will bring my enthusiasm and experience to the position. Thank you for your consideration!