

Precinct 7 Town Meeting Members 2021

7 for 3 years

1 for 2 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

Marsha E. Baker

Philip K. Hamilton

Precinct: 7

E-mail address: pkhamilton45@gmail.com

Phone number: 781-861-3939

* Community Activities:

Town Meeting Member (1999-2005) (2015-present)

Conservation Commission (Member since 1992)

(Vice-Chair 2000-2014) (Chair since 2014)

(Land Acquisition Committee-since 1994)

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

Two important Lexington issues at this time are 1) correcting the current imbalance between commercial tax revenues and residential tax revenues by encouraging more commercial development; 2) increasing the supply of smaller, more affordable homes. The town has begun to address the first issue through the plan for the redevelopment of the Hartwell Avenue industrial area. The Planning Board has also taken steps to address the second issue, but more needs to be done. Both issues require changes to the zoning bylaw, which can only be done through Town Meeting. Town Meeting, with its wide representation of the citizenry, will be an ideal forum for the discussion and resolution of the necessary changes. As a Town Meeting member, and a longtime member of the Conservation Commission, I hope to ensure that those changes will incorporate adequate protections of the town's wetlands and other natural resources. Through the budget approval process, Town Meeting will also ensure that the town continues to

provide excellent schools and town services and to maintain and improve the town's conservation areas and other open spaces.

Stacey A. Hamilton

Precinct 7
E-mail address staceyhamilton@earthlink.net
Phone number 781-274-1202 (home) or 617-817-7759 (mobile)

* Community Activities

- Work full time as Compliance & Ethics managing director for a technology company
- Two children in the Lexington Public Schools (Diamond & High School)
- Lexington United Soccer Club (LUSC) President (2019-2021); Board Member (2015-present) volunteer soccer coach and division director (2013 - present)
- Member of the League of Women Voters
- Member of the Lexington Historical Society
- Estabrook PTA volunteer (2013 - 2018)
- Town election officer volunteer (2003 - 2015)
- Town Meeting Member representing Precinct 3 (2012)
- South Lexington Civic Association board member (2004-2012)
- Bowman PTA board volunteer (2012)
- LexFUN member and volunteer (2009-2014)
- Town of Lexington 2020 Vision Committee member (2004-2009)

* 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?

I think the 3 most urgent issues in Lexington right now are responsible economic development, social justice initiatives, and building a new high school. These are all intertwined and a big part of the long term vision for the Town that citizens have voiced in 20/20 Vision Committee reports and the Comprehensive Plan. Lexington's identity has long been based on our role in the founding of this country, preserving history, and more recently on the strength of our neighborhoods and schools. The Town has done well in those areas, but we now have the chance - and must have the will - to fundamentally re-examine the roots of our institutions, our priorities, and how to better use our shared resources in ways that encourage, support and uplift all in our community and those impacted by it. While the question posed was about how I view Town Meeting's role in *implementing* improvements, I think the strongest role of Town Meeting is in *advocating* for improvements and changes that better meet our diverse yet collective vision for Lexington.

Ravish Kuman

Raul Marques-Pascual

New Candidates

Christian L. Boutwell

Precinct 7

boutwellchristian@gmail.com

617-417-0965

Community Activities:

Precinct 6 TMM (2016-2019; 2020)

Lexington Recreation Committee (2020-present)

LPS COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Program (volunteer 2021)

Lexington Youth Lacrosse (co-president 2014-2018; board member 2014-present; coach 2009-present)

Lexington Bedford Youth Hockey (coach 2010-2019)

Estabrook Access ad hoc Task Force (Estabrook PTA designee 2011)

The most important issue facing Lexington is how to walk the knife edge of competing interests in a number of critical areas while making decisions that further our goal of enhancing social justice and equity. For example, the Town is faced with the need to undertake the large capital projects of building a modern police station and high school but must do so in the context of fair and equitable public safety and education, all without crushing citizens under an overwhelming tax burden. Similarly, the desire to create a Hartwell Avenue vision that is maximally attractive to commercial development, thereby increasing the commercial tax base and reducing the citizen tax burden (see above!), must be balanced against protection of the very neighborhood characteristics that make Lexington so appealing and the need to require forward looking, environmentally sensitive, “green” building practices. I think that Lexington generally does a good job of balancing the multiple interests and priorities that surround big decisions. However, it does not happen by accident, and we need to continue to invest our energy and intention into hearing and respecting the opinions of all constituents. I believe that the most critical role of Town Meeting in the governance of Lexington is that its very existence provides a strong catalyst for our Boards, Departments, and Committees to vigorously perform their due diligence, knowing that all proposed decisions will be intently and robustly reviewed by this diverse body of invested citizen representatives.

David G. Kanter

Leonard J. Morse-Fortier

Precinct: 7

E-mail address: personal: lenmorsefortier@gmail.com, professional: lmfortier@sgh.com

Phone number: 781-424-3965

* Community Activities:

I am a Member of the Commission on Disability, and I have been for many years.

I am a Member of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), and I have been since the committee was formed.

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important? Development of housing that presently includes a preponderance of tear-downs and large-home construction seems to be a vital issue for many of the folks who have commented to the CPAC. I am also running for Planning Board, where I hope to be able to collaborate with others to address this.

What does Lexington do well? I believe we do an excellent job of educating gifted and talented students. As the parent of a now adult child with special needs, I believe we have a mixed record on that. However, regardless of our relative success at the ends of the academic spectrum, we need to do better for the students in the middle.

What could be improved? The education of students who fall between profoundly challenged and profoundly gifted.

How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements? I believe we demonstrate what we believe in through our bylaws and budget decisions. In order to make an impact, I look forward to participating in crafting and voting on bylaws, and in helping to make decisions.

Pamela C. Tames

Precinct 7

pamela.tames5@gmail.com

781.572.1483

Why I am Running for Town Meeting Member

For years, I have volunteered in the schools and in local organizations. I now am running for Town Meeting because I want to further serve the community, and to be an active participant with you in shaping the future of Lexington.

About Me

I arrived in Lexington with my husband, David, in 1998. We promptly fell in love with the Town and all that it has to offer. Our three children, ages 22, 19 and 15, have attended Lexington Public Schools; two graduated from LHS and one is a student there now.

Professionally, I am an energetic and thoughtful leader, lawyer and team player with a passion for work that empowers people. Developing and expanding programs that impact health and wellbeing has defined my career.

Community Activities

- Board Chair, Lextended Day
- Committee Chair, Diamond Middle School
- Committee Chair, Estabrook Elementary School
- Committee Chair, Temple Isaiah
- Board Member, Lexington Community Farm
- Board Member, Lexington Playcare Center
- Board Member, LexFun (LPPTA)

Responses

What Lexington issues do you think are most important?

There are three issues of great import.

First, the pandemic calls for municipalities to play new and expanded roles. Lexington has been monitoring and communicating Covid-19 data for some time and, more recently, facilitating testing of school staff and students. Lexington should consider whether a more robust testing plan is implemented, and whether a public vaccination site should be opened for eligible residents, and eligible Town and School employees. Such sites are available in other communities.

Second, across the country, the pandemic has had a devastating impact on people, businesses, schools and government. As Town Meeting plans and budgets for a new year, members should evaluate and consider the wellbeing of our residents and of Town and School employees, the fiscal health of our Town and Schools and of Lexington businesses, and the resources we might need to help the recovery and reopening of Lexington.

Third, the past year has further revealed the inequities that exist for so many Americans. As a community, we in Lexington should consider racial and other equity impacts in Town decisions and planning processes. Many view our community as one that advances a culture of excellence. We should work to ensure that this is equally true with regard to race and other types of equity.

What does Lexington do well?

Among other things, Lexington offers excellence in terms of public education and town services, preservation of outdoor space for a multiplicity of uses, and welcoming residents of differing backgrounds. These benefits do not simply happen. They are the result of intentional and continuous work by many.

What could be improved?

Over 20 years of residence, the Lexington housing stock has changed dramatically. As smaller homes disappear, the town becomes less accessible to newcomers. For residents, downsizing and remaining in town are more difficult. Protecting and facilitating the development of residential housing to serve a broader socioeconomic populous should be a priority.

Increase and/or enhance communication to Lexington residents about the options for property tax relief. Although the criteria may not apply to the vast majority of residents, it can help some long-term Lexington residents comfortably remain in their homes. Consider whether assistance should be more widely available.

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

Town meeting is the legislative body of town government. It is used to debate and enact local laws, consider and approve budgets, and authorize the spending of Town money. Articles proposing improvements can be presented and debated by Meeting members. Questions and feedback allow fellow members to evaluate the items and their attending budgets. Town Meeting can serve as an excellent local example of the democratic process.