

## Precinct 8 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**

#### **Lin D. Jensen**

#### **Lisa J. Mazerall**

Precinct 8  
[lmaz23@msn.com](mailto:lmaz23@msn.com)  
781-674-9376

Community Activities:

Town Meeting Member Precinct 9 (former) and Precinct 8 (current)  
Former PTA Co-President and Secretary- Hastings Elementary  
Catechist at Saint Brigid's Parish  
Manager and Coach Lexington Little League  
Former 5th Grade Activities Co-Chair & Room Parent- Hastings Elementary  
Member Lexington Lions Club  
Board Member Lex Media (current secretary)

Currently we are facing some immediate critical issues (public health, education and affordability) in our town due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Lexington is made up of caring, intelligent, diverse, inclusive and hard-working residents whom all help contribute to making Lexington the best place to live. As a Town Meeting Member, I view my role as a representative of all of these constituents, neighbors and friends and I would continue to strive to work to the best of my ability to implement improvements that would keep Lexington a safe and vibrant community to work and live.

#### **Brielle Kissel Meade**

Precinct 8  
[brielle.meade@lexingtontmma.org](mailto:brielle.meade@lexingtontmma.org)  
781-405-4775

\* Community Activities:

Brielle (Kissel) Meade is an economist in Lexington with an education and consulting background in public policy and planning. Brielle grew up in town (LHS Class of 2000) and moved back 5 years ago with her wife to raise her family. She has a 5-year-old daughter in kindergarten and a 2-year-old son enrolled in local preschool. She feels fortunate to call Lexington home again and loves living and working in this beautiful community.

In 2018, Brielle served as Vice Chair of Precinct 8 in the Lexington Town Meeting Member Association (TMMA). She was subsequently elected to the Executive Committee as Clerk and continues to serve as a TMMA Executive Officer helping to prepare each Town Meeting session, ensure smooth communication between Town Meeting members and Town leadership, and providing continuity of services to Town Meeting members throughout the year. She is excited to continue her involvement with Lexington government and Town Meeting leadership and would be honored to continue to represent Precinct 8 residents at Town Meeting.

Brielle holds an M.S. in Economics and Urban/Environmental Policy & Planning from Tufts University, as well as undergraduate degrees in both Economics and Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

\*Response to question for Town Meeting candidates:

Lexington faces the perennial issues of how to maintain the Town's sense of community, history, and affordability as we experience population growth and change; how to best educate our children and create and pay for the physical spaces we need to do it right; and how to appropriate finite funds to the infinite needs and wants of the community. The last few years have also increased awareness about social justice and policing policy in Town and how to best reach our Town sustainability goals.

There are no easy answers to address these issues, but I believe Town Meeting's role is to carefully consider articles – especially zoning changes and financial requests – and approve those that will help the Town meet the needs of constituents while balancing the realities of the Town budget. Usually by the time an article comes before Town Meeting, it has been well researched, drafted after extensive time and effort from Committee members and Town staff, and updated based on public input, so I also think it is important for Town Meeting members to be proactive and involved before the voting process – by joining committees, following up with Town staff, and getting feedback from neighbors – to really affect change and implement improvements.

**James Arthur Osten**

Precinct 8  
[ostenj@verizon.net](mailto:ostenj@verizon.net)  
781-861-9079

Community Activities:  
Zoning Board of Appeals, Water Sewer Abatement Board, Town Meeting, TMMA Executive, former Chairperson, Genesis Battle Green Run Charity fundraiser, Lexington Goes Purple-Longest Day charity fundraiser, Supporter of Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Lexington Historical Society, and lecturer for the Economics and Finance Forum.

Issues Facing Lexington

Our people come first. Lexington is a “Town” providing essential services with 1,000 employees, 1,000 retirees, managed with a budget of nearly \$10,000 per resident, and owning buildings, recreation assets and conservation land valued at well over 1 billion dollars. For Town Meeting, we need members who represent the community to weigh in on policy judgments from a wide variety of perspectives. The most immediate issues facing Lexington concern COVID; preparing for a safe eventual return to normal activities in town especially the in-person services of education, town offices, recreation, community center and library.

Many challenges await us especially measures to address affordable housing needs, racial inequality and a transition to clean energy. Zoning approval of new developments now requires a 50% vote no longer two-thirds, meaning larger and more complex developments. Our zoning regulations can be adjusted to both maintain existing neighborhoods and promote desired development in designated districts. Much interaction is required to make up for a year of isolation, to better understand one another and to ensure that all are treated with respect and courtesy. The town will continue to expand clean energy through changes to zoning bylaws, purchase decisions and regulations.

**Sanjay Padaki**

Precinct 8  
[Sanjay.Padaki@lexingtontmma.org](mailto:Sanjay.Padaki@lexingtontmma.org)  
(781) 863-5553

**Community Activities**

Town Meeting Member since 2015  
Vice-chair of the Appropriation Committee  
Past President of Indian Americans Getting Involved Group (iGIG)  
Active member of Indian Americans of Lexington (IAL)

## **Question for Town Meeting candidates**

Despite the pandemic, the financial situation of the town is relatively stable. This can be attributed to the good fiscal planning that the town has done over the past decade. Over the next decade, the primary areas of focus should be on increasing the commercial tax base of the town. We have many planned capital projects, including a new LHS, that cannot be completely put on individual homeowners. So, projects like the Hartwell Ave rezoning are very important to be able to attract high tech and life sciences companies. Town Meeting is crucial in such efforts since rezoning requires a 2/3rds support. However, zoning articles can be dense and difficult to understand, requiring TMMs to pay careful attention to wording, intent and legal clauses. Attending informational meetings and getting educated on the article ahead of Town Meeting would be beneficial in efficient meetings.

**Jessie Steigerwald**

**Weidong Wang**

Precinct: 8

E-mail address: weidong@yahoo.com

Phone number 781-325-5750

### \* Community Activities

- Lexington Housing Authority since 2012 including 2 years at Chair, on my 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-yr term
- Town Meeting member since 2012, seeking my 4<sup>th</sup> term
- Past President of Chinese American Association of Lexington
- Member of Lexington Diversity Advisory Task Force, 2017-2020
- Member of working group for 2020 STM-2 Article 8 “Systemic Racism Resolution”

### \* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

Here are a few on top of my mind:

- Maintain fiscal responsibility during the current difficult pandemic situation
- Strike balance between routine operations and large capital projects
- Address social and racial justice and equity issues
- Attract commercial development to offset even-increasing residential tax burden

I think Lexington has been doing a great job being fiscally responsible when deciding on the spending for the operation side vs capital side, and be mindful when it comes to large ticket items for capital improvements.

I would like to see more efforts in attracting commercial tax revenue to help residents. I have heard from many residents about tax burden as the tax goes up every year.

As for the role of Town Meeting, I think Town Meeting exercises its influence through the budget review and approval, passing certain ByLaw changes, zoning changes, as well as through sponsoring and passing certain citizen's articles to let the town know about the focuses Town Meeting wants to have.

When the Town Meeting is satisfied with the proposed budgets, which contain certain improvements in certain areas, it is the budget approval or disapproval that let the Town know that it is on the right track, or not.

When it comes to areas where citizens and town meeting members think that the Town should do better, it is through the citizen's articles that puts stakes in the ground. Even when the article is just a resolution, it still shows what Town Meeting wants the town to implement, or move towards.

## **New Candidates**

### **Dahua Pan**

Precinct: 8

E-mail address: dahuapan@gmail.com

Phone number: 914-703-1979

\* Community Activities

Parent representative of Hastings School Site Council

Member of Lexington Citizens' Advisory Council

Board member and Secretary of Chinese Americans of Lexington (CALex)

\* 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?

In my view, the most important Lexington issues include environment, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and financial sustainability.

Environment: Lexington does well at making public space/buildings greener – the town has built a solar farm at the compost facility and constructed new public buildings, e.g, Hastings, that met high environmental standards. For Lexington as a community, there are still a lot of opportunities for us to reduce our impact on the environment. The Town Meeting can enact policies that promote energy saving practices and facilitate transition to green-energy resources, for instance, a policy to encourage the use of newer technologies for heating, as opposed to burning oil.

DEI: DEI issues have frequently been discussed in Lexington. The town has convened a Citizens' Advisory Council, of which I am a member, to advise the Town staff and the Select Board in the work of creating the town's Racial Diversity, Inclusion and Equity transformation plan. A lot of hard work is still ahead to make Lexington the most welcoming place it can be. The Town Meeting plays a critical role in supporting DEI initiatives recommended by the school administration, Town staff, Select Board and residents.

Financial sustainability: The town has been managed well financially. However, the looming high cost of building a new high school and the continuing rise in residential property taxes do present a financial challenge. The Town Meeting can support the efforts to increase revenue from businesses, particularly by way of attaching high-tech and biotech companies.