**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER - ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022, 10:30 – 12:00 - VIA ZOOM**

Facilitator - Marilyn Mullane Secretary - Trā Evrigenis

First Reader - Caroline Shamu Second Reader - Volunteer at meeting

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Opening Remarks

Request for Second Reader

Civic Leadership Award – Susan Verdicchio

Approve minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting pages 1 - 4

Vote on budget proposed for 2021-2022 – Jean Herbert pages 4 - 6

Report on membership - Sonya Rao

Review of last year’s events pages 6 - 10

Vote on slate of Steering Committee members pages 10 - 11

**CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD**

This year Susan Verdicchio will be honored as the recipient of the Civic Leadership Award. Susan is recognized for her long-standing involvement in community service as a volunteer in the schools, local organizations, and on town committees, as well as being an elected officer for the School Committee and the Select Board.

Emcee: The ceremony has been prepared by Meredith Mason-Crowley and will be emceed by Lynne Brodsky.

Speakers: The speakers invited to give tribute to Susan’s community service work are Gloria Legvold of the LWVW, State Representative Jason Lewis, Winchester Select Board member Mariano Goluboff, and Renata Mukai, Susan’s daughter who has written a letter reflecting on her mother’s inspiration in her life.  The letter will be read by Tra Evirgenis, of LWVW.

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12, 2021 HELD VIA ZOOM**

Facilitator: Caroline Shamu Recorder: Jean Herbert

First Reader: Marilyn Mullane Second Reader: Vicky Coccoluto

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Caroline Shamu at 10:05 AM.

Nineteen League members were signed on.  Two left the meeting early, but only fifteen were needed for a quorum.  Many guests signed on to join the celebration for the Civic Leadership Award portion of the meeting.

Caroline welcomed everyone and expressed the hope that we will be meeting in person next year for this event. She called for a second reader; Vicky Coccoluto volunteered.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Caroline asked permission of the attendees to record this portion of the meeting. She then introduced Merry Crowley, who described the criteria of the Civic Leadership Award and introduced Patty Shepard, this year’s recipient. Merry called on Marilyn Mullane, who presented a brief biography of Patty. She described some of the highlights of Patty’s many accomplishments and stated the reasons why Patty was selected for this year’s award.

Merry Crowley then introduced Claire McNeill, who spoke via a pre-recorded video about the social justice work she has shared with Patty over the years.

Patty thanked Claire and thanked the League. She acknowledged many individuals for their ongoing good work. She asked us all to sing along with an uplifting song that she has written and then she spoke about what doing this kind of work has taught her. She says her philosophy is to “go with the flow” as a way to continue working toward our goals, and not to be discouraged by unexpected roadblocks. She advised us to pay careful attention to what is going on around us and to keep an open mind.

ANNUAL MEETING – BUSINESS

Caroline stopped recording the meeting at this point. She made sure we had a quorum in order to continue with our business. (17 voting members were in attendance at the time votes were taken; 15 were needed to make a quorum).

MINUTES

The minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting had been sent to members before this meeting and they were accepted as written.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer, Jean Herbert, briefly talked about the current finances and described the budget proposed for the coming year. The proposed budget was approved unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Report was prepared by Kim Foley and was presented by Vicky Coccoluto because Kim could not attend the meeting. Vicky reported that 33% of members had joined or renewed online. She said that we have had a steady, moderate increase in membership over the past few years: 94 this year, 92 last year, and 88 the year before. Vicky expressed the hope that having more in-person events in the coming year will allow us to have more contact with potential members, with the possibility of increasing the diverse make-up of our membership.

Vicky reminded us of two very important ways of reaching out to people. One is to make sure the names, addresses, and emails are legible on the Contacts Lists we have at each event. Kim and Vicky have successfully solicited new members by following up on those names. Perhaps the most important way to encourage new members is through personal conversations and invitations. Vicky ended by saying that no one has done more toward increasing the diversity of our membership than Patty Shepard through her work with LWVMA.

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR’S EVENTS

Caroline highlighted several of the events accomplished last year in spite of the pandemic. She mentioned the candidate debates that took place on zoom at WinCam, the Moveable Feast which provided lunch for all Town employees, the first ever online Voter Guide, and most recently the table we will have at Saturday’s Farmers’ Market to inform residents about the special election and to urge them to vote for the Waterfield development.

BY-LAWS

Jean acknowledged the work of the members of the ad hoc committee (Marilyn Mullane, Lynne Brodsky, and Merry Crowley) who worked with her to review and revise the LWVW by-laws. The Steering Committee had approved the suggested changes at a previous meeting. The amendments to the by-laws were unanimously approved by the voting members present at the Annual Meeting, exceeding the two-thirds vote required according to the by-laws.

ELECTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The slate of those proposed for the Steering Committee was sent earlier to all members. The people on the slate, which included some current and some new members, were elected unanimously.

Caroline thanked the three members leaving the Steering Committee: Sue Carney, who helped with the Jimmy Tingle fundraiser and will continue in that role; Kim Foley, who will continue as Membership Chair; and Jean Herbert, who will continue as Treasurer.

ELECTION OF THE TREASURER

Jean Herbert was unanimously elected Treasurer for another two years.

REPORT ON A NEW INITIATIVE OF THE NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

League member Phil Coonley asked us to consider joining the NFSJ in their effort to allow non-citizen residents to vote in local elections. He pointed out that this seems to be consistent with League policy and stated that other towns have already adopted this notion. If the LWVW and NFSJ can urge the Select Board to take another step toward inclusivity in this way, it would work for the larger goal of getting the state to allow non-citizen residents to vote in all local elections.

Phil pointed out that many such residents are already civically engaged through volunteer work, school activities, and by paying taxes. The hope is to inform and educate Town Meeting members and to bring the issue to a vote this fall. The Town Clerk has had prior experience with the logistics of such a change through work she did in Connecticut.

Lynne Brodsky suggested creating an ad hoc committee to begin working toward this goal. It was agreed that the new Steering Committee would definitely add this topic to the agenda for their summer planning meeting.

LWVMA STRATEGIC PLAN

Marilyn Mullane spoke about the upcoming LWVMA Convention. We have our four voting delegates who will attend the State Convention (virtually) June 26, but others are encouraged to attend as well, even though they will not be able to vote. One thing that will be voted on is the new LWVMA Strategic Plan. Once approved, LWVW will send out a survey capturing its goals and action items for all members to vote on. These survey results will provide input to our summer programming. Marilyn stated that it is important to coordinate with the state activities. We can always add our own local priorities, such as advocating for non-citizen residents to vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lynne Brodsky reminded us that the state and national leagues support housing equity, which is consistent with our recent work in favor of the Waterfield development in Winchester. Lynne has organized a table for us at the next Farmers’ Market to urge people to vote in favor at the special election June 22. Due to time constraints, the Steering Committee voted by email to support this development and Marilyn Mullane was instrumental in writing a letter detailing the reasons for our support.

Michele Nathan had a question about posting information from other organizations doing work that supports democracy, such as Fair Fight. She wondered about the process for approval to post such items on our web site. Amanda said that if there is a strong nexus between the post and our mission, it is usually allowed. However, she suggested that we need to be careful not to be promoting another organization’s work more than our own.

Merry Crowley reminded us that LWVMA has requested a one-minute video about work we have done toward DEI initiatives. She said she would be in touch with the members of the Steering Committee regarding this video.

Caroline thanked the attendees and the many volunteers who help make our events successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022-2023**

ASSETS

Certificate of Deposit $7,566.84

Checking Account $18,223.21

**PROPOSED FOR**

**2021-2022 2021-2022 2022 - 2023**

**Proposed Actual**

**INCOME**

Membership Dues Total 8,950 **$7,440**  $7,000

Individual (36 x $65) ($2,340)

Sustaining (51 x $100) ($5,200)

(97 total members: 87 plus 2 students, 2 lifelong, 5 who paid Feb-May—dues not counted in this fiscal year)

**Fundraising**

Direct Appeal 0 --- 0

Large Fundraiser 8,000 --- 8,000

Gifts/Donations 250 505 250

State Funds (phonathon) 0 80

**Grants**

Scharfman (WDIFY event) 250 160 250

**Interest Income**  50 --- 30

**Miscellaneous**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PROPOSED INCOME 2020-2021 $17,500

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL INCOME TO DATE $8,285**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL INCOME FOR PROPOSED BUDGER 2022-2021 $15,530**

**EXPENSES 2021-2022 2021-2022 PROPOSED FOR**

**Proposed Actual** **2022-2023**

**Membership Fees**

PMP National Dues 3,200 2,800 3,000

PMP State Dues 2,300 2,006.75 2,200

Gift to LWVMA Convention --- 250 250

**Programs**

Annual Meeting 550 --- 550

Consensus Meeting --- --- 0

Civic Leadership Award 400 99.79 400

Moveable Feast 750 922.23 1,000

Hot Topics 450 --- 250

NSJ (Housing) 175 100

Other 0 --- 100

**Voter Services**

Election Events 200 --- 200

Vote Banner Date Patches 160 159.38 240

Vote/Registration Banner 0 --- 80

**Administration**

Domain Name (2 yrs) --- --- 70

Zoom 127.42 159.27 160

P.O. Box 150 176 180

Wild Apricot Annual Fee 600 1,090 600

Wild Apricot Monthly Fees 120 61.48. 70

Chamber of Commerce 115 115 115

WinCam 50 50 50

Summer Planning --- 49.76 90

New Checks 29 0

**Membership Renewal**

Postage 125 92.80 100

Printing/Copying 125 148.75 150

Supplies (ink, envelopes) 60 44.36 50

**Outreach**

Membership, Public Events, Publicity 1,000 --- 0

Farmers’ Market (sign, printing, pens) 50 100 50

Town Day 360 180 180

**Conferences**

State – fee/travel/etc. --- --- 0

National (800 moved to State requested by SC) 1,500 --- 0

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TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSES 2021-2022 $12,392.42

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE $8,878.47

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSES FOR 2022-2023 $10,235**

**OVERVIEW OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMS 2021-2022**

**Recommended Yes Vote for June 22nd Special Election**

The League was approached by several organizations in Winchester and based on our long held positions on affordable housing and the due diligence of Town Meeting Members, the Select Board, the Planning Board, the Housing Partnership and Finance Committee, we urged our members to vote “yes” thereby authorizing the Select Board to enter into a land development agreement with Civico for the Waterfield project.

**June 19th Farmer’s Market Table**

Typicallythe League staffs a table once or twice a year at Winchester’s Farmer’s Market. It is held at an outdoor central location from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM every Saturday from the second Saturday in June to the end of October.  The League had a table at the June 19, 2021 Farmer’s Market ahead of a special election forced by residents through a petition. Their goal was an attempt to reverse a vote by Town Meeting to move forward with a proposal from a developer to build a multi-use development on town-owned land.  At this Market, our key focus was our long held support of affordable housing, as well as LWV's positions supporting equity and antiracism.  Together with the Network for Social Justice, we crafted a single page brochure with information about affordable housing, and distributed it at both Farmers Markets.

**September 18, 2021 Town Day Booth** In September the League again had a presence at Winchester Town Day; the event was postponed from June because of the pandemic. In addition to LWV brochures and materials, this year our booth featured a handout, “Winchester and Affordable Housing," that was produced in partnership with the Network for Social Justice in order to help inform our community about affordable housing issues in Winchester. The brochure provided a snapshot of the Winchester housing market, and described the importance of increasing the number of affordable housing units in Winchester and the need to diversify Winchester housing stock.

**October 16th Farmer’s Market Table**

The Leaguealsostaffed a table at the October 16 Farmers Market where we provided information about Voter Registration, Affordable Housing in Winchester, and of course about LWVW.  As always at tabling events, we added to our list of contacts, to whom we send email notification of LWVW events open to the public .

**Forum: Demystifying Affordable Housing: Lessons for Winchester**

On October 27, 2021, in partnership with the Network for Social Justice, the League hosted a webinar forum addressing affordable housing in MA and lessons learned in other communities that are relevant for Winchester. The event was moderated by Marty Jones, Winchester resident and Principal at MJ Insights. The featured speaker was Andrea Adams, former Senior Planner for the city of Watertown, MA. The presentations were followed by a robust question and answer session with the presenters.

**Supported formation of the Winchester Housing Coalition**

League members have participated consistently in recent years in efforts to support the building of more affordable housing in Winchester. In October, 2021, the League provided a letter of support for the Winchester Network for Social Justice application for a Municipal Initiative Engagement Lite grant from the MA Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA). The grant application was successful and led to formation of the Winchester Housing Coalition (WHC) in March 2022. League members are active participants in WHC meetings, contributing to the Community Education and Community Engagement WHC subcommittees.

**December 14th Open Meeting**

After a brief business meeting, special guest Ruth Trimarchi, co-chair of the Climate Action Committee, presented a review of Winchester’s 2020 Climate Action Plan. She introduced Ken Pruitt, Winchester’s new Sustainability Director. Hiring Ken was one of the primary recommendation of CAP. They discussed reducing the carbon footprint in Winchester by focusing on the residential component which represents 76% of Winchester’s carbon pollution. Specific ways for residents to reach their goals was especially appreciated.

**Moveable Feast December 9, 2022**

The Moveable Feast was held in person December 9th, 2021 with 65 attendees at the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium.  Through consultations with the Board of Health, Town Manager’s Office, and DPW many COVID protocols were put into place.  Steps to ensure social distancing involved use of the larger town hall auditorium, Google forms for invitations and scheduling lunches in shifts, use of multiple tables, and take-out containers as a grab and go lunch option. Many staff attended the in-person luncheon while others opted to take lunches back to their offices or shifts at the Fire, Police Departments, and Transfer Station.  Over a staggered three-hour lunchtime, ten LWV volunteers, including two Select Board members, assisted in shifts with the preparations and served lunch to staff. The luncheon was provided by D’Agostino’s, BJs, and dessert donations were made by Stop and Shop.  We received much appreciation from the staff.

**Successful Membership Drive**

After a successful membership drive (during which we reached our members through both email and via letter), the Winchester League of Women Voters continues to maintain a robust membership with a total count of 91 members as of the 2022 Annual Meeting. A significant portion of members joined or renewed through online registration on our website. We are hoping that the coming year will allow us to engage in more in-person activities and hope that the personal interactions during such activities will increase our membership.

**NEW LWVMA Data Collection Tool required starting January 2022**

Per the LWVMA’s Strategic Plan to measure collective impact, all Leagues are required to utilize a new data collection tool created by LWVMA for its activities and programs. The Winchester League used the tool to report on its January 26th Harvard Case Study project, candidate forums and voter guides, and the April 13th Non-Citizen Voting Educational Forum. All found it easy to use.

**January 26 Community Event - Martin Luther King and the Struggle of Black Voting, A Case Study in Expanding Democracy**

On January 26th, the League of Women Voters of Winchester hosted a community Zoom event which focused on the 1965 Voting Rights Act within the context of the Civil Rights Movement, This event demonstrated the case method of teaching. Our league sponsored two WHS U.S. History high school teachers, Chris Kurhajetz (chair of the department) and Anne Marie Edenhofner, to be trained by the Harvard Case Method Institute on Education and Democracy to use this teaching method in their classrooms.

In collaboration with the Winchester League, the teachers moderated the case study discussion of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The LWVW recruited three active adult participants who agreed to read the case materials in preparation for the discussion. WHS students also actively participated. The general public was invited to attend and the online event was stimulating, educational, and very well-attended with 60 participants, almost all of whom remained engaged until the very end. The WHS teachers found the case method of teaching beneficial. It boosted students’ engagement with important historical events relating to our democracy. The teachers reported that they are excited to continue to use this method. The League looks forward to future collaboration with Winchester High School in promoting civic engagement and education!

**January 25th Special Election and District-wide Referendum GOTV**

Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon requested the League’s help with getting the vote out for the District-wide Referendum on Bonding for a New Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School. In addition to hanging our Vote Banner at Winchester High School advertising the day to vote, we also provided to our members:

* background material on the Wakefield Vocational regional school that would serve 12 communities, including Winchester,
* the reason for the referendum vote, and
* and how Town Meeting members voted on Winchester’s share of the 30-year assessment last fall.

**March 19th Town Elections**

LWVW conducted candidate forums for contested seats on the 4 town-wide boards, including School Committee and Board of Health on one evening, and Select Board and Planning Board on a subsequent evening.  Questions for each debate were developed ahead of time, as always, with extensive input from the public while reflecting the League's focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We had League trained moderators each night from outside our town as is our custom to avoid any bias or conflict. WinCAM provided the Zoom webinar platform and technical support, broadcast it live on their cable and internet site, and made it available on their website and You Tube for later viewing.  This was a standard format League debate with a Zoom "twist".  The timekeepers were Zoom electronic timekeepers operated by very human LWVW volunteers.

**Voter Guides for the 2022 Town Election**

For the second year in a row, our League produced voter guides with profiles of candidates running in the March Winchester Town Election. We received profiles from candidates running for all of the contested and non-contested Board seats, and from 68% of those running to be Town Meeting members (77 of 114 candidates, across eight precincts). The 2022 Winchester Town Election Voter Guides were posted on the League website, and were also included in a Glide App, developed by a LWVW member. The app was a new feature for the League this year, and provided easy access to the candidate profiles on mobile devices. In addition, the app provided information about the election that was not included on the LWVW website such as ballot samples, precinct maps, and a map of election site. LWVW posted the QR code for this very helpful app all over town!  We would also like to acknowledge a generous and grateful League member who gifted our app developer’s membership this year.

**March 15th Open Meeting**

After a brief business meeting, special guest LWV of Vermont Board Member Marguerite Adelman briefed us on the town of Winooski’s successful efforts to provide for legal resident voting. She described the process, the League’s special role in registering and educating these new voters, some of the backlash they experienced and further efforts for pursuing legal resident voting State-wide. Attendance was good and members seemed engaged. Ms. Adelman was also one of our presenters at the April 13th Educational Forum.

**Non-Citizen Voting in Winchester April 13th Forum**

Again, our League partnered with the Network for Social Justice and this time advocated for non-citizen legal resident voting in our town elections. A citizen’s petition for Home Rule was submitted with more than the requisite number of signatures to ensure it would be decided at the spring Town Meeting. In preparation for the TMM vote, the League and Network provided an educational forum open to the public with invitations to all TMM’s on April 13th.

The forum consisted of the following four parts:

* An explanation of what the article is, what it means, who it impacts, and costs to Winchester
* The Winooski, VT success story
* The Past, Present, and Promise of Non-Citizen voting in Massachusetts
* Witnessing - personal stories of individuals effected by their inability to vote in local elections.

Representatives from the Winchester League and the Network for Social Justice introduced the warrant article during the April 28th Spring Town Meeting. After ten speakers against the warrant and seven speakers in favor, debate was ended and TMM voted on the warrant article. Results were 79 in favor, 74 against, 7 abstained. Winchester’s Home Rule petition will now be submitted to both houses of the legislature for approval and then the Governor’s office. It is also possible that Senate Bill #465 could pass providing voting rights in municipal elections to noncitizen voters in the commonwealth. State Senator Jason Lewis is in favor of this bill.

**Civic Leadership Award**

 This year, Susan Verdicchio is being honored as the recipient of the 2022 Civic Leadership Award for her many years of community service. Susan has lived in Winchester for over thirty years, having moved to the town with her husband to raise their family of three children.  She has been an active member of LWVW since 2006, and served on the Steering Committee from 2011 to 2014.  Susan’s years of community service in town activities began as a volunteer in the schools, and developed into serving on various town wide offices and committees which include being elected to School Committee in 2013 and as serving as Chair from 2017 to 2018, and election to Select Board in 2019 and serving as Chair from 2019 to 2022.  In addition, Susan has campaigned for a number of statewide candidates including Jason Lewis, Mike Day, Martha Coakley, and Elizabeth Warren.

**LWVUS June 23 - 26 Conference**

Due to past successful fundraisers, we are able to send one delegate to the National Conference in Denver. Trā Evrigenis will represent the Winchester League and will report back at our summer planning meeting.

**LWVW Helps with Statewide DEI Program and Local League Forums**

Patty Shepard has been leading a LWVMA DEI Peer Discussion Group that meets quarterly on Zoom since August 2020.  Together with Amy Cooper, from the new local league in Central Berkshire County, they offer spaces for local leaguers to gather and discuss experiences, ideas and resources for furthering our DEI work. See following link to join on the LWVMA webpages: <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-statewide-dei-peer-discussion-group/>

And, Lynne Brodsky, a League trained moderator, has moderated several candidate debates in other towns, including one for the Mayor of Holyoke this year. She will have moderated an issue debate in Lexington, about the Fair Share Amendment (millionaire's tax), by the time of our Annual Meeting.

**SLATE OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

New Candidates First Term Second Term

Kim Foley 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Elizabeth Brodbine Ghoniem 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Marie Lee 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Cheryl Shepard 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Robin Swan 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Susan Verdicchio 2022 - 2024 2024 - 2026

Current Steering Committee Members First Term Second Term

Tamar Evrigenis 2021 - 2023 2023 - 2025

Marilyn Mullane 2020 - 2022 2022 - 2024

Sonya Rao 2020 - 2022 2022 - 2024

Caroline Shamu 2020 - 2022 2022 - 2024

Please thank the members leaving the Steering Committee

Lynne Brodsky 2020 - 2022

Jeanette Kolodziej 2020 - 2022

Amanda Littell - Clark 2020 - 2022

Meredith Mason-Crowley 2020 - 2022

Michele Nathan 2020 - 2022

**MEET THE NEW CANDIDATES**

**Kim Foley**

Kim was born at Winchester Hospital and raised in Reading where she attended Reading Public Schools. She went on to become a registered nurse after graduating from Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Medford. While working as a nurse and raising a family, two daughters and one son, all the while volunteering at their various school and sports activities, Kim continued her education by earning an undergraduate degree in Nursing (BSN) and later a graduate certificate in Heath Care Informatics from UMass Lowell. Her nursing career has spanned 50 years and she have served on several professional nursing boards. Kim is a past President of the New England Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates. She served as Director of Legislative Activities while a member of the national Board of Directors for the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates. Presently, Kim serves on the American Board of Certified Gastroenterology Nurses in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. She have also served as Executive Secretary of the Digestive Disease National Coalition, a national coalition of healthcare advocacy groups, that lobby members of Congress regarding healthcare related legislation, and a past member of the League of Women Voters of Winchester Steering Committee. Kim enjoys reading, gardening, and walking, but mostly watching her two grandsons, who live close by in Reading, play hockey and Little League baseball.

**Elizabeth Brodbine Ghoniem**

Elizabeth was raised in Lynnfield, MA and left to go away to school first to The American University in Washington, DC for a BA in International Relations and then to Indiana University in Bloomington, IN for a MA in Middle Eastern Studies. Coming back to Massachusetts after graduation, she met her husband a professor at MIT and they settled in Winchester, Massachusetts in 1986. She worked for several technology firms before starting her own consulting firm, Saqqara Consulting, which today focuses on issues of poverty, education and gender equity. Her most recent project was with the Women’s Power Gap where she co-authored two studies on the power gap at the top research universities in the United States. Elizabeth previously served on the board of the Winchester League of Women Voters as Treasurer, served three terms on the Town’s Finance Committee and Town Meeting and currently serves on the Winchester Traffic and Transportation Advisory Committee. She is also on the board of the Winchester Senior Association Trust for the Jenks center. She enjoys hiking in the Fells, swimming and traveling or cozying up with any good book that will take her to exotic places and times.

**Marie Lee**

Marie was born in Germany and grew up near Beirut, Lebanon. She met her husband, Neville, while they were both graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh. Marie moved to Winchester from Washington DC with her husband in 1983, when they were expecting their first child. A second son came along in 1988, and both graduated from the Winchester Public Schools. Marie has been very active in her church community, Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, where she has served on the board and held positions on many committees. She recently retired from a long and successful career in book publishing, mainly concentrated on textbooks in science and technology. Currently, Marie is enjoying volunteering as a tutor with English at Large and helping out at the food pantry at St. Luke’s church in Chelsea, along with other church-related activities.

**Cheryl Shepard**

Cheryl grew up in Flushing, MI and came east to attend Dartmouth College, earning her undergraduate degree in Government and Asian Studies. Upon graduation, she went to work for The Quaker Oats Company in Chicago, beginning a 30-years-and-counting career in brand management, marketing and communications. She returned to Boston in 1995 to work for Welch Foods and now work for Atrius Health, leading strategic marketing and patient communications initiatives. She and her husband, Andrew have lived in Winchester since 1996 and have raised two children in this community – their son graduated from WHS in 2021 and their daughter in 2022. Cheryl has been her class’s president at Dartmouth since 2015 and was nominated to the Alumni Council in 2020. She is also an active volunteer in the Winchester Public Schools, serving as Secretary for the Lincoln and McCall Parents Associations for a combined total of 9 years.

**Robin Swan**

Robin was born in Louisiana and grew up there and in Oklahoma. She moved to Massachusetts in 2006 so that her husband could attend business school in Cambridge. During the next seven years, Robin stayed home with their four little ones. In 2015, we they moved to Winchester and their children have attended Vinson Owen, McCall and WHS. Robin is currently a member of the Affordable Housing Trust and hoping to expand her civic engagement!

**Susan Verdicchio**

Susan was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up in Long Island, New York. She studied at Brown University and Boston College Law School, and she and her husband moved to Winchester in 1990. Her civic involvement began when she signed up with a group of parents volunteering in the Muraco Elementary school library when Winchester schools had eliminated paid elementary library staff positions from the budget. This grew into advocacy for library staff and increased education funding. Susan served on the town school committee for two terms, and then was elected to the town select board, serving as its chair from April 2021 to the end of her term in March 2022. She is also a town meeting member representing Precinct 1. Susan enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time with my three grown children.