

Candidate Name: Ben Tymann
Contact Info: 978-468-2644; bbtymann@gmail.com

Bio/Background:

- 20 year Wenham resident; married, 4 children, 1 dog
- Attorney active in land use, zoning matters, civil litigation, and internal investigations since 2001 (partner at two leading Boston firms and have led my own Boston firm since 2015)
- Town Hall and Police Station Building Committee (2005-2007)
- Wenham Water Commissioner (2004-2007)
- Newbury School Committee (1991-1994)
- U.S. Army (Active Duty 1994-1997, Reserves 1997-2003)
- Active volunteer/supporter in community service and pro bono initiatives over past +/- 20 years
 - Wenham/Local: Save Wenham Town Hall; Promoting CPA Passage; St. Paul's Church Finance Council; Essex County Greenbelt Association; various other volunteering
 - Elsewhere: Lawyers Clearinghouse (Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing) – prior President; Free Legal Clinics at Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House; Rape Crisis Center/Pro Bono Representation obtaining Restraining Orders for Victims of Domestic Violence, currently working on a Historical Black Land Loss initiative

(1) As the Board transitions to 5 members how will you work to build collaboration?

The expanded board is a positive step in town governance and I give credit to Patrick Waddell for leading that effort. Like any body with more than a few members, teamwork and open discussion will be key, and so will a sensible allocation of responsibilities among all 5 members. If I'm fortunate enough to be one of those members, I'm sure I will rely in part on the experience of the 3 current members as well as others in Town Hall with subject matter expertise, and I expect that those veterans in Town government will, in turn, consider the perspectives brought by the 2 new board members. Finding that balance should be eminently achievable given the goodwill and skill sets of the current members and the candidates running to join them. Finally, when there are disagreements or split votes amongst the board members on one policy issue or another – which there will be, and should be, in a democracy – it's important that the members disagree without being disagreeable. Again, I have every confidence this is achievable given the folks involved.

(2) As the Master Plan is being developed, what is one thing you hope to see from the process?

A practical blueprint that can be implemented. I hope to assist with that as a SB member. We are fortunate to have the knowledgeable and hard-working people that we do running that process on the MPAC, which has been outstanding in its transparency and solicitation of broad community input. I've read the community survey report, and am heartened by the nuanced perspectives commenters provided on striking the right balance between smart development and the preservation of open space and Wenham's bucolic character.

(3) How do you plan on creating a sustainable town to reduce the carbon footprint of residents, businesses, schools and the town as a whole? I am space limited in answering, but one idea I'd pursue is working with the schools and the DPW on transitioning over time to electric vehicle fleets (see <https://triblive.com/local/pine-richland-launches-pilot-program-to-test-viability-of-electric-buses/>).