

Karen Anger

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Abbreviated Recent Resume:

- Lived in Wenham since 2014, as an active member in the community and strong support of families and seniors!
- Owner of Abby Velo, a mobile bicycle repair shop located in Wenham (a Woman Owned Business) since 2020. In addition, our family previously owned a franchise from 2016-2020, before going independent and starting our own business!
- Employed at Biogen since 2013, as part of Value, Access, Public Policy and Government Affairs, focusing on patients globally and coordinating million-dollar budgets across numerous cost centers.
- Council on Aging Board Member in Wenham since 2021, striving to bridge the gap between the younger families and seniors of the community.
- Married and mother to an amazing daughter who is a 1st grader at Buker Elementary.
- Head Girl Scout Leader for Troop 77609 for 15 Hamilton Wenham 1st graders, with a focus on introducing them to inspirational women in the community, giving back through service, respecting themselves and seniors and having fun!
- Supporter of Community Outreach in Wenham by coaching girls recreation soccer and softball, a veteran supporter (active duty family members), an active church member and advocate for the LGBTQ2+ community!

Questions From The Community:

- 1) *Please state your position on the new MBTA housing legislation impact to the current elementary school landscape in HW.*

The MBTA zoning law is mandated by the State and requires all towns to create a multi-unit zone (which is a minimum of 15 units that are to be built on one acre of land that is within a ½ mile from the MBTA station), as a way to address the housing crisis in our state. Even though our town is currently not required to build additional housing, I am confident that our Planning and Zoning Boards will work together to adopt a new zoning law that permits any requests that come from the state, to be compliant. As a Select Board Member, I will work to ensure that all Wenham residents are correctly informed of the state requests, the options positioned by the town boards and listen to all community concerns regarding the developments prior to any decision being made.

- 2) *What do you feel your responsibilities would be as a member of the Select Board?*

I believe that the responsibilities of a Select Board member are to be an accessible, dependable, respectful and communicable member as part of a diversified voting board that represents the citizens of Wenham at every meeting and on every issue, while working to enact laws and policies consistent with state law,

regulating local and municipal affairs. In 2023, Wenham residents voted to increase the Select Board members from the original three members to five, with the desire to create a more diverse board in demographics, professional and community experiences. In this position, I will bring the diversity that the board needs, keep an open mind to all viewpoints, create new ways of forward thinking, be well-researched, come prepared to all meeting by obtaining facts and a full understanding of issues at hand and represent the people of Wenham equally to the best of my ability.

3) *Describe the values you would bring to the town of Wenham?*

I will apply my entire skill set, a combination of my professional, entrepreneurial, community, and motherly competencies, as well as my integrity, honesty and loyalty to this position. As a small business owner, I understand the need to wear many hats and I am more than willing to speak up and support a cause. One of my goals for the town is to bridge the gap between the younger families of the community with the seniors, reestablishing a respectful connection and active dialogue, while understanding that both should be supported differently! I am a multi-tasker at heart, constantly researching new ideas on how to improve a workstream or network, as well as continue the lines of communication and will bring an enthusiasm that the board needs.

4) *How can you increase engagement with the residents on issues relating to any future large-scale development?*

Even though we live in a small community, communication between the town administrators, various committees, boards, residents and schools has been a constant challenge. To address these points, I would champion a need to have a multi-prong solution that includes streamlining the town's websites to include important current updated information from all the various communities and boards. In addition, I would utilize multiple methods of communication such as an increased number of smaller town meetings, the town social media presence and I am a strong supporter to bring back a version of the town's newspaper that can be an intricate educational project with portions run by high school journalism and photography students and sport reporters!

As a member of the Select Board, I will strive to encourage **Forward Thinking with Traditional Values:**

- **Family.** It is essential that families are supported in the community, through schools, building more resources at the recreation center and improved social services regardless of their family dynamic, race, religion or living situation!
- **Schools.** As a town, we need to strengthen support for the schools. The more acclaimed and successful they are, the more appealing it will be to new families looking to move into town.
- **Seniors.** A greater focus on social services are required for seniors including increasing COA funding, offering robust choices with social programs such as Dementia Care and providing more adequate care giver resources!
- **Town Services.** Expand support to all Police and Fire departments, specifically by utilizing state grants that can elevate the department and bring resources to the community.
- **Community.** Our town has beautiful natural resources, trails and landscapes that should remain untouched! There are creative ways to improve Wenham's carbon footprint while saving money by implementing residential sustainable living lifestyle credits.

Please vote for Karen Anger on April 11th for Select Board!