



***Citizens for  
Lexington  
Conservation***

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Kate Fricker, Editor February, 2013 Eileen Entin & Keith Ohmart, Co-Chairs

**CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE**

**Save the Date:**

CLC's Annual Meeting is on Monday, April 29 at 7:00 pm at Cary Library.

**Speaker:**

Bryan Windmiller, Grassroots Wildlife Conservation, Inc.

**Topic:** Active and Engaged: Rare Species Conservation inside Route 495

A short business meeting will take place before the talk. Admission is free and open to all. For more information go to <http://www.clclex.org/>.



**Photo Quiz: Where in Lexington was this photo taken?**

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**Citizens for Lexington Conservation devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to statements from candidates for town offices in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively in the coming election. All candidates were sent a letter soliciting a half page response on the following topic (not all responded):**

- As a candidate for elective office, would you support approval of Warrant Article 33 by Town Meeting as an indication of Lexington’s commitment to mitigating and adapting to the adverse impacts stemming from climate change? Why or why not?  
(Article 33: To see if the Town will act to include climate change in all its decisions and planning processes, take action to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of making Lexington a truly sustainable community, or act in any other manner in relation thereto. Inserted by the Board of Selectmen at the Request of the Sustainable Lexington Committee)
- What future specific actions related to climate change would you recommend that the Town take beyond what it is already doing?
- Would you support the development of a Town Climate Action Plan that would be part of, or an addition to, the Town’s Comprehensive Plan?

*CLC does not endorse any candidate. Rather, we urge you to read the candidates’ statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 4.*

**Photo Credit:** p. 1: Kate Fricker  
**Answer to Photo Quiz:** Hayden Woods, off the trail

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 Renewal

**Go Green.** Check here if you would like to have your newsletter sent (in color, with live links) as a link in an email, instead of the black-and-white paper edition.

Mail to: CLC Inc., P. O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003

Basic Membership \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Did you know:**

Between Jan 1 and June 30, LEXPRESS is offering free rides for seniors and the disabled from 9 am through whenever the 1:30 pm bus routes end.

# CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

## Candidates for Selectmen

**Deb Mauger**

781-861-7697 [debmauger@aol.com](mailto:debmauger@aol.com)

I support the warrant article submitted by the Sustainable Lexington Committee concerning climate change, as well as the development of a Town Climate Action Plan. I believe we have passed the "tipping point" and are already experiencing the effects of climate change here in Lexington given the increase in major storm events and the changes in our rain and snowfall. Climate change will be the major issue confronting our children and grandchildren. We will need to take action personally, as well as governmentally at the local, state and federal level. To truly address this challenge, we will need to coordinate a global response.

Here in Lexington, we will need to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint. I support exploring alternative energy for the Town including solar, wind and anaerobic digestion. We should foster and encourage transportation other than the single occupancy vehicle, including: the expansion of our Lexpress bus service; making school bus ridership more attractive to families; and providing safe and interesting routes for walking and bicycling. I support the effort to grow local food, including the community farm and our community gardens. Water conservation is also an important issue. I support our Tree Committee's goal of replanting our public trees that are lost due to a variety of factors.

Ideally, for our community to be sustainable, we should plan for providing a mix of local businesses that provide goods and services within Lexington. On the municipal level, continuing to offer library, recreation and educational activities for all ages in our local facilities can allow citizens to enjoy these activities without the need to travel far.

The Town has been successful in managing the energy demands of our municipal and school

buildings. I support using LEED green standards for new municipal construction and applaud LexHAB's plans for building low or zero energy affordable housing units.

**Joe Pato**

781- 674-0141 [joe.lextm@zpato.net](mailto:joe.lextm@zpato.net),

I support the sentiments embodied in Article 33 - that there is an urgent need to plan for the local consequences of climate change and resource constraints. To this end, I support developing a Town Climate Action Plan. Such a plan will lay out strategies for accommodating the consequences of climate change, will determine which issues can be meaningfully addressed by Lexington, and will identify partners with whom it makes sense to collaborate.

After the 2010 Town Meeting narrowly defeated a proposal to develop a Town Climate Action Plan, the Selectmen established the Sustainable Lexington Committee. This committee has taken the lead on efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses by minimizing town-wide energy consumption through conservation and efficiency. The committee is also driving the conversion of idle municipal spaces such as building roofs into power generation plants through the deployment of solar energy systems. This is commendable, but Lexington needs to do more.

A key strategy identified in the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report of 2011 is to "start now and be bold." Developing a Town Climate Action Plan with clear goals, measurable tasks, and a process for periodic reevaluation will integrate adaptation into our normal planning. This will allow Lexington to face climate change more safely and cheaply than if we wait to react as change occurs around us.

## Candidate for Planning Board

**Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti**

[nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:nancor1106@gmail.com)

I will support this Warrant Article because its adoption will continue to send a strong signal that Lexington is committed to limiting the ad-

verse impacts associated with climate change. The Article will also provide a future framework that the Town can use to help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as it prepares itself to be a resilient community when faced with the impacts of a changing climate.

I would recommend the Town use both existing energy technology and newer cutting edge technology to identify ways it can save energy and reduce carbon emissions and that it begin to look at the science of climate change and geo-engineering.

I would support the development of a comprehensive Town Climate Action Plan to meet the future needs of the Town and its residents.

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

### Precinct 1

**Janet Kern**

[janet@mackhillfarm.org](mailto:janet@mackhillfarm.org)

In my opinion, climate change is the single greatest issue of our time, and addressing its effects while increasing our resilience will require creativity and commitment both from individuals and communities as represented by their governments. For that reason, I would absolutely support Warrant Article 33 to affirm our town's commitment to mitigating and adapting to the adverse impacts stemming from climate change.

I would also support a Town Climate Action Plan that would be part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. It would be my hope that in the spirit of an adopted Article 33, our town would be willing to review each of the sections of the existing TCP, already a decade old, and consider how the issue of climate change might inform the plan further. Because climate change will affect the availability, price and quality of fresh food obtained outside our local area, it will be important to find as many ways as possible for residents to have access to locally grown food. Therefore, I believe that a Climate Action Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan should include a long term

plan for evaluating our open space resources specifically to determine how some might be responsibly converted to agricultural use.

### Precinct 2

**Laurel Carpenter**

781-861-6860 [lcarp@rcn.com](mailto:lcarp@rcn.com)

I support Warrant Article 33 because having a sustainable approach within our community can have a positive impact on the quality of life in the present and in the future. One aspect of sustainability planning relates to personal transportation. The EPA reports that transportation accounts for about 1/3 of the US greenhouse gas emissions, and within the transportation sector, passenger cars and light-duty trucks (including sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and minivans) are the largest contributor. By increasing the use of the healthy transportation options of walking, bicycling, and public transit, we can reduce our adverse impact on the environment. Lexington could be a place that supports pedestrian, bicycle and transit activities while encouraging personal interaction, physical activity, and community engagement.

Initiatives in Lexington such as Safe Routes to Schools have made progress in improvements to sidewalks, crosswalks, and intersection safety. The Greenways Corridor Committee has developed a successful pilot route of a network of pedestrian and bicycle routes linking parts of Lexington, entitled ACROSS Lexington (Accessing Conservation land, Recreation areas, Open space, Schools and Streets in Lexington).

One part of Lexington's Comprehensive Plan, The Transportation Element, was adopted by the Planning Board in 2003. This document identifies many specific actions Lexington could take to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled in our community. In addition to developing a Climate Action plan, Lexington would benefit from the implementation of the strategies suggested in the Transportation Plan.

**Rita Goldberg**

781 862 2258 [goldberg@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:goldberg@fas.harvard.edu)

I support Warrant Article 33. In the light of what we know, I can't imagine a serious argument against it.

As for future actions: the Town is already considering many measures, especially involving the code for municipal buildings. I'd like to see us stick to the criterion of LEED Silver standards or better. I hope that we will move forward with plans for an anaerobic incinerator for the town's waste. I had read about the Solarize Massachusetts plan in the Globe. Apparently Lexington was not chosen for this program in the last round, though the Town applied; but I hope that we can find a way to be included this time. The program subsidizes solar power not only for public buildings, but also for private and residential ones, if the article I'd read on Hopkinton was correct. This would be a fantastic opportunity for Lexington.

I hope also that the Town would support putting power lines underground, as the Governor has recently suggested. I know that there's much debate on this point and that it is an expensive option short-term, but it seems a sensible plan for the future, environmentally and aesthetically.

I'd like to add that the Bicycle Committee has done a great deal to bring the Town up to date on getting around without a car. If money were no object, I'd like to see more buses running more routes in town and further afield. I'd like to see the anti-idling law more strictly enforced, or at least more strongly supported.

It's clear to me that paying serious attention to climate change is no longer a choice, but a necessity. The whole town will have to work together on facing this new reality.

**Karen Longeteig**

781 862 4094 [Karen.Longeteig@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.Longeteig@gmail.com)

I support Warrant Article 33. The Town should set an example for its citizens in taking whatever action it can, as soon as it can, to moderate the impact of climate change.

Future actions could be:

- Setting up a revolving loan fund to enable residential installation of solar or wind power generation
- Requiring the retro-fit of parking lots over a certain size to include some permeable pavement and shade trees or shade structures
- Increasing the budget for personnel and costs for tree maintenance and tree planting
- Making school busing free for all children, to get thousands of cars off the street
- Establishing and improving bicycle and pedestrian ways
- Increasing Lexpress service hours and routes

**Ricki Pappo**

781.862.6834 781.254.2582 (cell)  
[ricki.pappo@gmail.com](mailto:ricki.pappo@gmail.com)

I support approval of Warrant Article 33 and applaud the Sustainable Lexington Committee's effort to provide this lens through which Lexington's decisions and planning will be made. Climate change is a serious global threat and I believe it is the responsibility of our community and its citizens to think "big" regarding this issue—not just how we are affected today—but to keep current with the science and the challenges of climate change and build a plan for our future. As a member of Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition for 5 years, I am deeply committed to this issue.

Lexington should continue to educate residents on the value of energy efficiency with a goal of 100% participation in free home energy audits. Home renovations and new building construction—both public and private—should employ energy efficiencies and alternative energy sources should be explored and encouraged. In addition, all residents can choose to purchase their electrical energy from clean energy sources and we need to encourage greater participation in such programs. We should continue to encourage alternative means of transportation with the goal of reducing overall car-miles traveled

per resident. Extreme weather events, which are occurring more frequently with climate change, often come with greater precipitation in a short period of time. We need to evaluate whether our storm water system is resilient enough to handle these events and make the necessary investments to rectify any deficiencies. Homeowners can create rain gardens and other sustainable practices.

I strongly support a Town Climate Action Plan to be part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. While individuals can make choices for themselves, the Town can make broader decisions taking into account the present and future effects of climate change and how this impacts Lexington's sustainability. Climate change calls for both mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation includes our reduction of CO2 emissions and making smart land use decisions while adaptation will require making infrastructure-planning choices based on a climate-changing world that will have both environmental and human health effects. I strongly support these types of efforts. This year Lexington celebrates its 300th birthday and now is also the time to adopt plans that preserve our community for our children and their children.

**Betsey Weiss**

[betseyweiss@hotmail.com](mailto:betseyweiss@hotmail.com)

I support Warrant Article #33 because global warming mitigation needs to be addressed in our homes, locally, state-wide, and nationally if we are going to reverse the negative impacts of climate change. I have supported global warming mitigation in the past and will continue to do so in the future. I recycle two bins weekly and in 2007 was one of the 350 contributors to the LHS Science Building New England Wind Fund solar panel project as well as contacted friends who also contributed. In addition, I was a member of the 2007 campaign committee that helped pass the debt exclusion for the new LEED Silver certified DPW Facility. As a Town Meeting Member, I have always voted for fuel efficient vehicles as well as voted for fuel efficient heating systems in town buildings. Moving forward, I would support initiatives that promote more recycling, alternative energy systems for residences that would

include solar panels for electricity or hot water, more energy efficient town vehicles, and more fuel efficient heating systems in older town buildings. I also would support a Town Climate Action Plan as part of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

### **Precinct 3**

**Jeanne Kreiger**

[jkkrieger@gmail.com](mailto:jkkrieger@gmail.com)

I support increased and focused effort in Lexington to both reduce our carbon emissions and adopt policies and practices that will maintain our quality of life in the face of a changing climate.

Among the actions the Town could consider are:

**Transportation**—Make it easier to walk and reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles by completion of the Towns sidewalk network and expansion of Lexpress and MBTA routes.

**Energy Efficiency in Buildings** -- Promote home energy audits and adopt even higher energy efficiency standards for municipal buildings

**Renewable Energy Resources** -- Promote installation of solar panels on residences, including those in the Historic District, as well as on municipal buildings; encourage residents' purchase of renewable energy

**Waste Reduction and Recycling** -- Continue education to achieve higher recycling rates; site an anaerobic digester

**Infrastructure** --Examine hardening of electricity distribution and lobby for improvements as well as optimizing storm water management techniques.

The Town should incorporate the impacts of climate change in its decision making processes. Including the impacts of climate change in the Comprehensive Plan would ensure regular review and updates of actionable and measurable programs.

## Precinct 4

**Melanie Blower**

781-862-0677 [miblower@gmail.com](mailto:miblower@gmail.com)

1. Yes I support the approval of article 33. Climate change is upon us, and we must think globally and act locally to respond to this crisis. It's reasonable and not onerous for the town to consider this reality in all its decisions and planning.

2. In terms of future specific actions, I think that education is very powerful. I think the town should offer educational opportunities to adults about carbon emissions, as well as educational curriculum in our public schools. If the adults do not reach the materials themselves, the children can bring it home through experiments and investigations involving "kill-a-watt", education about carbon emissions from airplane travel, carbon footprint calculators, etc.

3. Yes, I support the development of a climate action plan that would be part of the town's comprehensive plan.

**Laura Kole Hussong**

781-863-8035 [laura.hussong@yahoo.com](mailto:laura.hussong@yahoo.com)

1) I support and would vote to approve a warrant article that asks the Town to consider climate change in its decisions and plans (as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make Lexington a sustainable community). We must take seriously the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather, and act to reduce the effects on the Town and its citizens.

2) I am not a climate change expert, so I looked to see what Lexington is currently doing. It wasn't easy to figure out what actions are being taken, what has merely been suggested, what has been studied but not yet proposed.... I know that the Town has taken many steps to reduce energy consumption from battery recycling and hazardous waste drop-off days to changing the HVAC systems in existing buildings to building LEED certified new structures. One action: write down what the Town has taken on as its current goals, post the list, then at least annually indi-

cate on the list what has been accomplished. Awareness of progress is a very important part of any action.

Addressing climate change will require partnering Town efforts with the great energy of individuals and expertise of citizen groups such as GWAC and CLC, to name just two of the many active groups. Lexington could partner with another town (as Acton and Maynard have done) to hold "Green Drinks" events to raise awareness of and connect people with an interest in sustainability. This is more a citizen effort, however.

3) I believe the Town should take climate change into account in its decisions and plans, so I also believe it needs to have a Climate Action Plan as part of its Town Comprehensive Plan.

**Charles Lamb**

781-674-9101 [charles.lamb@lexingtontmma.org](mailto:charles.lamb@lexingtontmma.org)

1. Yes, I would support Article 33.

2. a) Presently I, and the Capital Expenditures Committee which I chair, have been supporting the Sustainable Lexington Committee in their efforts to evaluate solar power alternatives for Lexington. Their present course of advancing a Power Purchase Agreement seems rational and well considered so I support this effort.

b) The stated standard for new building construction in Lexington by the Board of Selectman is LEED Silver. This standard has been in place for several years and has worked well. I would be interested in understanding the tradeoffs of moving the Town's current stated standard for new buildings to a higher level (Gold or Platinum).

c) I have been, and continue to be, supportive of advancing farming efforts at the Busa Farm property. I believe that local farming and agriculture are an important component for sustainability.

3. Yes, I would support developing a Town Climate Action Plan.

**Sandra Shaw**  
[sj.shaw@verizon.net](mailto:sj.shaw@verizon.net)

As a candidate for Town Meeting, I would certainly support approval for Warrant Article 33 which I view as a continuation of Town efforts for adapting to the adverse impacts stemming from climate change. I voted for the Stretch Energy Code when the program was debated at a past Town Meeting. I would also support Article 30 to install solar panels on certain Town buildings. This program would seem to be a no-brainer, since the Town would not have to provide any up-front money. I applaud the Selectmen for establishing the Sustainable Lexington Committee, and look forward to following their future projects.

## Precinct 5

**Saatvik Ahluwalia**  
781-325-5218 [saatvik.ahluwalia@gmail.com](mailto:saatvik.ahluwalia@gmail.com)

1) As a member of Town Meeting, I would support Warrant 3. It is important for any town to keep in mind the ecological impact that our activities to. It is critical to our future to do our best to maintain the environment that we live in now. Lexington is a town that has been at the forefront of history since the beginning of our nation and it is in our nature to be a part of change. Great change comes in small steps, and I believe that it is important for Lexington to be a part of change. As a town, we have already made great strides to become greener and more sustainable, and I believe it is only natural for Warrant 33 to be a part of that change.

2) I think the most important thing that we can do is make climate change and sustainability a major part of education. Lexington has always prided itself on having one of the finest education systems in the nation and preparing its students for the future. Global Warming is a very real part of our future and as so we have a duty to provide the next generation of leaders with the skills and knowledge to tackle it.

I also think we have to be careful with our resources. I think it would be in our town's interest to conduct a study as to where we might change our resource usage to create a more sustainable society.

3) I support the formation of a Town Climate Action Plan. I believe that it would be in our best interest to delineate clearly our goals as a town in regard to climate change and sustainability. The Town Climate Action Plan will allow us to more methodically approach and tackle the problem.

**Andrew Friedlich**  
(781) 863-8372 [AJFRIEDL@aol.com](mailto:AJFRIEDL@aol.com)

I am fully in support of Article 33: it is inconceivable that it would not pass unanimously. We should be proud that Lexington has been on the forefront of addressing climate change. We are indebted to the work of both citizen groups such as the Global Warming Action Committee who brought native son Bill McKibben back to speak with us and appointed entities including the Energy Conservation Committee, the 2020 subcommittee which issued the report calling for a Climate Action Plan and the current Sustainable Lexington Committee. Based on all the work of the above, we passed the Stretch Energy Code and Lexington was deemed a Green Community under the State program. Additionally, in an effort to minimize our carbon footprint, we passed the anti-idling law.

However, it is only through passage of an article such as the Climate Change Resolution and incorporating a Climate Action Plan in the Town's Comprehensive Plan that we can both formalize our commitment and benefit from new technologies and best practices. While this is not my area of expertise in terms of specific recommendations, the reasons we need to approve Article 33 include:

1. It's the environmentally responsible thing to do.
2. It will help reduce our dependence on fuel, both foreign and domestic.



3. It may help in making Lexington eligible for future grant money and thus could help alleviate pressure on the tax base.

**GINNA JOHNSON**  
[gjohnson@eskercompany.com](mailto:gjohnson@eskercompany.com)

I would support the approval of Warrant Article 33 because scientists, notably two with Lexington connections, Bill McKibben and E.O. Wilson, have documented the startling consequences of human settlement and industry on the environment. Only by considering sustainability in all of our decisions can we hope to prevent further damage to natural systems and provide the resources we need to support our communities.

I think Lexington could do much to reduce car traffic—idling car traffic—by further subsidizing school buses, and perhaps investigating additional bike lanes and bus routes along busy commuter corridors like Lowell Street between Arlington and Burlington. Street lighting and municipal building lighting should be evaluated to target need and efficiency. Pavement—parking lots and roadways—could also be designed to reduce impervious surfaces and thereby reduce flooding and improve water quality. An obvious contribution Lexington could make to fight climate change is to replant its urban forest canopy.

Yes, I think Lexington has always led the way and should continue to do so with a Climate Action Plan.

## **Precinct 6**

**ANN KELLY**  
781-862-1006 [annkelly1006@aol.com](mailto:annkelly1006@aol.com)

As a present precinct 6 town meeting member running for reelection, I support Warrant Article 33 calling for climate change to be accounted for in town decisions. I'm originally from New York, and Super Storm Sandy brings home to all of us the problem of rising seas due to climate change, for our coastal cities. Lexington can make a small contribution by joining with nearby towns and making climate change one of the strands in the town decision making process.

**DEBBIE STROD**  
[Deborah\\_strod@yahoo.com](mailto:Deborah_strod@yahoo.com)

I would support a Climate Action component of the Town's Comprehensive plan. Actions to combat and adapt to climate change are so entwined with the actions of the town in general, that I believe they should be part of an integrated planning process. If climate planning is done separately from other planning, then there is a possibility for a lack of coordination, particularly when it comes to implementation. If an action is planned incorporating the "other" tasks and responsibilities of the departments and citizens involved, it is more likely to be implemented successfully.

I note that the article is a Resolution, and will be an expression of the Town Meeting members if approved, but is not a binding commitment on the part of the Town. I would support this resolution. I expect the debate will provide some useful resident education on the issue of climate change, energy dependence, and an update on what the Town is doing – all good things. I would note that our budget and the activities we fund, to the extent that there is discretion, is a tangible expression of our values. First, I think it is key that Sustainable Lexington is a Town committee, because that will provide more direct input into the decisions the Town leadership make. I think it is great that Lexington became a Green Community, which showed leadership in action and also benefited the Town by Lexington receiving state money for an efficient street-lighting project. I think it is great that our facilities leadership has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020, and that one of the goals of Sustainable Lexington is to reduce residential energy bills by that much in that time frame as well. I think the 9<sup>th</sup> grade science project that includes a home energy usage calculation is a great way to integrate community learning around this issue.

We do so much – more than I can name, such as the anti-idling education project, maintaining open spaces, supporting local agriculture and local businesses, seeking regional resources. Beyond these actions: preparing for climate change helps us prepare for many kinds of inci-

dents, and we should continue to improve our two-way communications between officials and residents. We could consider asking if youth would establish a conservation service corps to supplement the Conservation Stewards, or have a play-writing contest with a climate education theme. We should support accurate, easily available climate change science information that openly addresses new information and skeptics. We should look for imaginative use for our existing resources – imagine if all the restaurants contributed their used veggie oil and LEXpress ran on biofuel! I don't know if that is possible, but we should look for projects that excite people - whenever we add solar panels to a building and the data is available in real time that builds excitement. There are some very efficient homes that have been updated or built in town – we could have the equivalent of the MA solar tour, but have it here in Lexington so people can see the range of improvements and their impact. The specifics may change, but continuing to get buy-in from the community is key to sustaining these efforts, and that comes from simple clear information sharing.

## Precinct 7

**Mary and George Burnell**  
[gaburnell@gmail.com](mailto:gaburnell@gmail.com)

The Town is currently pursuing actions that mitigate adverse aspects of climate change. Article 33 represents an affirmation of our accepted practice. Professional exposure by the staff, research by the Sustainability Committee, Conservation Committee and the Energy Committee, as well as input from concerned citizens assures that we are responding to appropriate opportunities. A Town Climate Action Plan, kept current, is one tool in a comprehensive effort. We support Article 33 and the efforts of our various colleagues in pursuing pragmatic steps in response to global warming challenges.

**Patricia Costello**  
781-862-6435 [pecostello@verszon.net](mailto:pecostello@verszon.net)

I support the general purpose of the Climate Change Resolution as it appears in the Town Warrant on the Lexington Town website. I hope

to learn more about the resolution and what a Town Climate Action Plan might look like at the February 26 Community Conversation on Climate Change.

**Mary Hamilton**  
781-861-3939 [marychamilton@gmail.com](mailto:marychamilton@gmail.com)

1. I would support approval of Warrant Article 33. Climate change is a serious and important problem that is, unfortunately, not being addressed very effectively on a national or international level. Local initiatives can have some impact on this problem, can sensitize residents to viable solutions, and perhaps serve to set larger responses in motion.

2. I don't pretend to have a complete knowledge of what the town is currently doing, but I look forward to learning that in the debate on Article 33. Since we have moved here, the recycling program has certainly been expanded in significant ways. Our family frequently visits the Hartwell Avenue Compost Facility and we have participated in Hazardous Waste Day. I have been impressed by the outreach programs of the Sustainable Lexington Committee.

3. Yes, I would support the development of a practicable and effective Town Climate Action Plan.

## Precinct 8

**Margaret (Peggy) Enders**  
781-863-0474 [peggyenders@gmail.com](mailto:peggyenders@gmail.com)

I would support approval of Warrant Article 33. President Obama said it well: we can't ignore the "devastating impact of raging fires, crippling drought and more powerful storms." Lexington has experienced all of these, and it's incumbent on us to acknowledge it formally and to plan for adapting to a changing climate. The Town needs to better coordinate the things it is already doing and to start planning more strategically. Committees that exist need to work better together and be properly supported. The 2006 Vision 2020 recommendations that a Climate Action Plan be prepared for the Town should be revived and a strong, well-supported group of town staff and citizen experts assembled. The

idea of pay-as-you-throw ought to be resurrected, as well; it was a great idea then and an even better one now, since citizens were motivated to conserve and recycle. Many towns and cities have "Climate Change 101" websites that help individuals understand what they can do – and should do – to help mitigate but also adapt to a future of more challenging weather, including emergency preparedness for loss of power, loss of clean water, extreme flooding, etc. Any Town Climate Action Plan needs to be part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Sustainability needs to be a factor in all decision-making, be it planning for transportation, land use, housing, or economic development.

**David Horton**

781-862-3293 [paulrevereroad@aol.com](mailto:paulrevereroad@aol.com)

It is far wiser for the Town to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate than to wait until it faces a crisis of unknown proportions that could seriously impact our lives. Just as the damage wrought by Hurricane Sandy has New York City thinking about what it must do to protect itself from surging waters such as the ones that disabled the transit and electrical systems in the city for days and even weeks, it is time for Lexington to think seriously about what potential dangers it could face and how it would respond to them.

Lexington can do its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to attain the goal of becoming a truly sustainable community. Just as we need to prepare for the impact of a changing climate, it is our responsibility to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming and a changing climate. These two approaches are complementary, as I see the issue.

I, therefore, support the warrant article proposed by Citizens for Lexington Conservation.

I particularly like the idea of a Town Climate Action Plan that could be based on an audit of what the Town is currently doing related to retarding climate change, what it is doing to plan for a major crisis that could be a consequence of climate change, and what it is doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A second part of

the audit could be to develop recommendations for further steps the Town could take to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, what other initiatives the Town and its citizens could take to reduce greenhouse emissions, what the anticipated costs would be, to set priorities, and suggest a time line to carry them out.

The comprehensive approach!

**Alan M. Levine**

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I am very supportive of the climate change Article 33 and the ideas behind it. Climate change is a tremendous threat to our welfare and even to survival of civilization as we know it as well as to aspects of the environment that may not be so clearly connected to survival of our descendants. The importance of addressing it in a more timely way than is being done now cannot be overstated. Energy independence of the United States is sometimes taken to be of great importance but climate change is so much more important. The media and public need to hear this point of view. Town Meeting should seriously consider all initiatives that will contribute to sustainability whether it be in regard to the Town of Lexington or to Lexington residents and businesses, and at the same time we need to be aware of those initiatives that act against sustainability in any significant manner.

I support present initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of Town buildings and street lights and I certainly support initiatives to install solar PV on Town buildings. In fact, I have been acting as a liaison from the Appropriation Committee to the Solar Energy Task Force that is developing initiatives to accomplish the latter and I hope I have contributed to this effort in some small way. (I note that the CLC summary of recent activity is not precisely correct. Article 29 is intended to modify Town bylaws to generally allow the Town to enter into contracts for solar energy that could be in effect for up to 20 years. I believe that the present limit is 5 years. The article does not seek approval of any specific solar energy initiative.) I also believe that there must be opportunities to reduce energy use in residences and businesses and in transportation

in/from/to Lexington. We need to vigorously investigate them and to help our residents and businesses act in rational ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, I also support the development of a climate action plan. If done with common sense, good technical analysis, and with a broad outlook, it could accomplish a lot.

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1. While I am concerned with global warming, I would prefer to see a more practical case by case approach to mitigating the effects of climate change in town decisions and planning. A blanket warrant article mandating that all town decisions include a consideration of climate change will have little practical impact, and I do not support it.

If specific cases are identified when actions of local government are shown to impact the climate, and this impact can be mitigated in a practical way, then I would support Town Meeting action to mitigate climate impact - read on to my response to question 2:

2. A large number of houses in Lexington are heated with oil, and could be switched to natural gas if a distribution line was available on the street. Natural gas heating is cleaner for the environment. I would support town meeting funding to expand the natural gas street distribution lines.

Electrical distribution lines are failing each year during winter storms, leaving houses without electricity and causing residents to use dirty and noisy oil generators. If the state amends its laws to permit towns to buy electrical distribution lines at fair price, I will support having a Lexington municipal electric utility company. A local muni will be more responsive to power outages, will be cheaper for consumers, and will invest into slowly moving electrical distribution lines underground.

3. Before an action plan is put in place, we need to better understand what is the overall town pic-

ture in terms of energy generation, distribution and consumption. I think the town could fund an exhaustive study of energy use in Lexington, including households, businesses, government buildings, and transportation, taking into account that we are not isolated and we depend on state and regional resources. I would not support the development of a Town Climate Action Plan until an exhaustive energy use study is available.

## **Precinct 9**

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I do not support the approval of Warrant Article 33 by Town Meeting. For one, it is so vaguely worded as to be all-encompassing. What exactly does it mean to require the Town to "include climate change in all its decisions and planning processes"? Should the Town consider climate change when hiring a new school superintendent? Will there be added costs to comply with this measure? I think this measure is largely symbolic. It is also unnecessary as the Town is already largely on board with the goals of the CLC.

That being said, I am totally in favor of the reduce/reuse/recycle lifestyle. Practiced at the town government level, this is consistent with fiscal conservatism. As an electrical engineer working at the forefront of "green" technology where it relates to integrated circuits, I understand fully how politics often trumps technology (and common sense). For an example, read my letter to the Lexington Minuteman about the Big Belly trash compactors. Hint: google "vitunic trash".

As for future actions the town should take, how about turning off most of the lights in our LEED-certified Fiske and Harrington schools? The Fiske building is so lit up at night, it probably has a higher lighting bill than our non LEED-certified Bridge School. I guess we should expect the same when Estabrook opens?