

Candidate's Statement

I'm Tom Garabedian and am running for the position of Town Moderator. It's no secret that our recent town meetings have not been conducted in as efficient or effective manner as possible. When town meeting plods along, town meeting members lose interest in the process and lose track of the key issues. Town meeting becomes a painful exercise of our democracy rather than an uplifting one. The moderator alone is not responsible for how town meeting operates; town employees and our volunteer boards are critical participants as are town residents. But the moderator's handling of discussion and facility with the issues in front of the meeting sets the tone and keeps everyone engaged. If elected, I promise to be intimately familiar with the financial and non-financial issues before the town to help conduct an efficient town meeting. I promise respect for the issues under consideration, respect for town meeting members, and respect for the time of all involved.

Since our family's move to Hopkinton in 1998, I have served on the School Committee (1991 through 1997), the Zoning Board of Appeals (1998 through 2011), and as a Commissioner of Trust Funds (2005 through 2014). My professional career as a consulting actuary and as an executive director of a charitable organization included significant responsibilities for managing projects and meetings.

I would appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and your vote on election day.

Sincerely,

Tom Garabedian