



City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2017

The Waltham Land Trust asked all candidates for Waltham City Council to submit answers to our questions before October 24, 2017.

We'll put what we've received on walthamlandtrust.org.

1. How would you assess how the city has managed and maintained open space? What plans do you have in mind to improve this work?

Daniel Romard, Ward 1: I believe the City can and should do a great deal more to maintain and protect our open space. A key premise behind open space is for the enjoyment of people and the enhancement of the quality of life in Waltham. Therefore all open space should be maintained and safe to provide for this enjoyment for all. Natural settings are important, however, left totally unattended, open space can allow for negative impacts. Unfortunately, we are seeing too much of this happening within various open space parcels throughout the city today. In fairness, the Mayor and the Recreation Board are making an effort to remediate this and move in the right direction, however, the council continues to struggle with this concept. Therefore, during my next term, I will continue to strongly support and advocate for additional resources and training with regard to open space and recreation within our city departments. To aid in this mission, I will continue to commit full support and time to promote the good work of the Waltham Land Trust, the Stewards, and all other internal and external organizations and programming that work to preserve open space and sustain a higher quality of life for the City and its residents.

Daniel Keleher, Ward 1: The City has in the past several decades acquired land and reserved it for open space. The City could have done much more in this regard, but I am certainly thankful for the park land and other open spaces that have been set aside. To improve this work, I would like the City to (a) assist people in utilizing our open spaces (and outdoor space in general) to a much greater degree; (b) continue to acquire parcels for open space; and (c) protect existing open space areas from invasive plants. My specific plans follow. A. I have heard of people having lived in the City for thirty years without realizing that Prospect Hill Park exists. Land north of Trapelo Rd remains a mystery to many. Most people would have no idea of the waterfowl and wetlands that exist to the south of Beaver Street and to the east of Lexington Street. The Charles River is underutilized as a recreational area. For relatively short money, the City could increase both utilization and preservation by increasing signage, ensuring the safety of outdoor spaces (largely by increasing their utilization), promoting trails, and creating access corridors to open spaces that are hidden. The better utilized our outdoor resources are, the more they will be appreciated, and the easier it will be to devote resources to their continued preservation. B. Having served on the Conservation Commission for seven years, several of those with Lesya Struz, I came to appreciate the threat that invasive plants pose to our woodlands and other open spaces. For example, Bittersweet vine adds a layer of green to a towering tree until the whole thing, much to people's surprise, comes toppling down. Many other invasive plants have their own destructive tales. We need a comprehensive program in the City to address invasive plants. C. In hindsight, the money used for open space decades ago seems miniscule now. We need to devote what seems like extraordinary resources now to land preservation so that one day future generations will appreciate our foresight.

Bill Fowler, Ward 2: Although the city has done a good job of acquiring open space, we have not done as well at managing it. Using the Fernald as an example, we purchased it three years ago and still have not developed a plan of what to do with it. Buildings that may have been able to be repurposed sit and deteriorate. We need someone in the planning office, whose main job is overseeing its re-use.

John Saxe, Ward 2: I feel the city has taken a less than holistic approach to planning overall. It's impossible to pull out a single aspect of planning, like the management of open spaces, and grade the city's performance in isolation. It's not the way we should be thinking about planning in the city, and it's not the way we should approach our policy on open space. We need a planning board in Waltham that can look holistically and strategically at all the city's assets and all the city's infrastructure and make reasonable decisions based on what the infrastructure can support.

George Darcy, Ward 3: While the City of Waltham is to be commended for acquiring many open space parcels during the last decade, there is certainly room for improvement in the management of these beautiful open spaces. My recommendations would include the following:

- A park ranger position to oversee all of Waltham's open space parcels.
- Development of a detailed management plan for each parcel.
- Installation of trash barrels and trash bags at all parcels.
- Installation of kiosks showing trails, educational and historical information.

John McLaughlin, Ward 4: During my time on the Council, I have been very supportive of efforts to secure open space in the City of Waltham. My votes on the Fernald School, Arrigo Farm and the Stigmatine property are all examples. As far as management and maintenance of the City's open space, we can always improve on what we have. We have a strong model of management within our Recreation Department, especially with regards to our ball fields, playgrounds and rink. I'd like to see that extended to all of our open space.

Kelly Damm, Ward 4: While the city has taken the initiative to preserve large parcels of undeveloped land, there is a serious lack of commitment to ensuring that those parcels are actively and fully utilized for the benefit of all residents. One glaring example is the Fernald property. For nearly three years, the city has let one of our most significant pieces of open space languish largely unused. City officials have failed to clarify the full extent of the historical and environmental restrictions on the property, which has led to extended discussions around impermissible development and delayed both the identification of a site for the new high school and the active reuse of the site itself. We need to do the work now of laying out the full range of possibilities on the land so that residents can make informed suggestions for its reuse.

Christina Montgomery, Ward 5: While the City has done a passable job with acquiring open space, and has a very good open space master plan, it has not done enough to manage and maintain those spaces. An excellent example is the Fernald, which we acquired several years ago, largely with CPA funds, which is in need of clean-up and a long-range plan for how it will be maintained and used. I am a strong advocate of holistic city planning, and the appointment of a dedicated City Planner, with experience in coordinating a variety of master plans to create a strategic, long-range, all city master plan. Such a plan would include specific parameters for how open space should be managed and maintained. The Waltham Land Trust should be part of the conversations around this planning, as a city partner that has significant expertise in this area.

Kristine Mackin, Ward 7: Waltham has done a good job purchasing and protecting open space, but I would like to see additional maintenance along with increased publicity to encourage use of this land. Some areas have trails that are unclear and difficult to follow, or have displays that are out of date. Along with the ongoing renovations of many of our public parks and playgrounds in more urban areas of the city, I would like to see similar investments made for improvements to facilities in our preserved lands, and for appropriate trail maintenance. Additionally, I support completion of the Western Greenway trail to encourage residents to enjoy our public lands, and to support alternative forms of commuting that reduce carbon output and other pollution.

Robert Logan, Ward 9: During my tenure on the City Council the City of Waltham has acquired numerous parcels for preservation as open space totaling over 389 acres of land. I supported every one of those acquisitions. I led the effort to acquire a portion of an abandoned railroad line and turn it into Chemistry Station Park. This property, surrounded by residences, was slated to become a storage yard for construction equipment. Instead, it is now an oasis of green in the middle of the neighborhood. I have been working with Ward 8 Councillor Stephen Rourke to acquire the vacant riverfront property at 67 Crescent Street, a property that is cited four (4) times in the City of Waltham Master Plan as an important target for acquisition for open space and increased public access to the Charles River. I support creation of the Mass Central Rail Trail and the purchase of the Arrigo Farm. Most recently I authored a Resolution calling on the City to negotiate a conservation restriction on the Stigmatine Property. I have supported the acquisition of additional open space at every opportunity, and will continue to do so. I believe, in some areas, we could improve our management and maintenance of our open spaces. I support Waltham's Open Space & Recreation Plan which states that we need to have collaboration across City Departments and clear communication between them to have successful stewardship of Waltham's open space and recreation lands. In addition, I support a forestry management plan with specific actions to maintain the trees of our open space in order to ensure that they will be there for future generations. The City should also provide, on an ongoing basis, the funding needed to sustain our existing open space and the open space that we will acquire in the future.

Consuelo Valdes, Ward 9: I'm grateful for the expanses of open spaces in our city. The Storer conservation, Chester Brook Corridor, and the Shady's Pond Conservation Area, for example, are amazing to think of amid the noise of Lexington St and the developments all around it. We need to raise awareness about our green spaces; so many who live or work in Waltham don't know about the amazing parks and conservation areas that we do have. More and better signs are a relatively low-cost way to do this. We need to ensure that our parks and open spaces are kept clean. In many high traffic spaces like the greenway, there are overflowing waste receptacles by the end of the weekend. As far as maintaining open spaces, I want to incentivize developers to renovate existing structures or redevelop land rather than what remaining open spaces are left to preserve, similar to the Waltham Land Trust's position on development.

Patrick O'Brien, At Large: I grew up in Waltham during the 1970s and 1980s and have always been an advocate for open space. Our weekends were spent walking up the hills of Bear Hill and Prospect Hill. We also spent time walking up the railroad tracks into Weston and beyond. I've been an advocate for the Wayside Trail for over 15 years. The Minuteman Trail opened in 1992 and our rail trail is long over-due. I really enjoyed the recent 5K sponsored by the Waltham Land Trust. I think the city could do a better job promoting our open space locations. I was proud to vote to acquire the Fernald property last year.

Clarence Darrow Richardson, Jr, At Large: For the most part, I think that the City's open space is reasonably well maintained, although there is always room for improvement. It is also unclear how much of the current maintenance is being addressed by the City, versus by the Waltham Land Trust stewardship program. I would support the City hiring a person to be responsible for maintenance who could also work collaboratively with the Land Trust and other nonprofits so that these roles could be more clearly defined. Routine maintenance is the City's responsibility, but opening up volunteer opportunities to the general public can be an important way to generate community investment in green space. I would also like to see the City take additional steps to put conservation restrictions on certain pieces of property to ensure they are permanently protected as part of its open space management, and would support the City and Community Preservation Committee devoting resources to restoring natural habitats and removing non-native invasive species.

Diane LeBlanc, At Large: My grade for the City would depend on the property. Overall, I would say a B-, but for Fernald it would be lower. The City needs a true Planning Board with a representative of the Land Trust on it. This would help to bring a greater focus to the importance of properly managing our citywide resources.

Kathleen McMenimen, At Large: I have served Waltham since 1976 as a Councillor. During that time, over the past 40 years, the citizens of Waltham and City have acquired or preserved more than 1000 acres of open space ranging from the 200 acre-parcel of the Fernald Development center, to the 12 acres known as "Waltham Woods" (which I championed through the Council process). I am most supportive of acquisition, retention, management and maintenance of land preservation in our City and will continue to work to provide a formidable balance toward others who would choose to do otherwise! The membership of the Waltham Land Trust has proved to be a tremendously supportive and effective advocacy group in this endeavor. The City has magnificent natural resource assets in Prospect Hill Park, Hardy Pond, the Charles River, the Western Greenway, portion of Beaverbrook Reservation, the former Metropolitan State Hospital Complex, the former Fernald Development Center, the advocacy for a Rail Trail and many other smaller outdoor preserves, all free and open to all people. Ongoing vigilance and advocacy must continue to preserve this trend. I will engage both proactive and reactive strategies to help in this endeavor.

Thomas Stanley, At Large: The City of Waltham has made great strides in preserving open space over the last 15 years. This would not have occurred without the guidance and leadership of the Waltham Land Trust (WLT). Unfortunately, the City of Waltham has put forth minimal effort to manage and maintain public open spaces, including the Fernald and Prospect Hill properties. While we have seen a few improvements, such as the installation of rest rooms at Prospect Hill, much more can and should be done to maintain these precious resources.

Pamela Perini, At Large: Being not on City Council Currently, I am at a disadvantage to answer that question— but I will tell what I would do. An inventory that is categorized is the first step. There needs to be a good and accurate repository for information regarding City Owned Land. Some critical information outside of the basics (location, size, environmental, etc.) would be any funding source limitations or special MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) that would allow the city to identify what can/cannot be done with each of these parcels. The city currently utilizes a GIS systems that identifies property, locations and they like. An overlay of this particular category would be helpful if it is not already done. "Open Space" could be the top layer, "Unrestricted Open Space" and "Restricted Open Space" would be the sub-categories with the details. There would also be a category for "Wanted" for land that is on the Master plan, but not yet acquired. A governing body cannot plan without something they can see, easily, simply and quickly. If we had this

opportunity to look at the City as a whole and identify gaps, we would be able to assess what could be done and assess the accessibility to the working space.

Bill Doyle, At Large: I believe the city is doing a good job maintaining and upgrading the city parks and creating and upgrading play fields. I do believe the larger more passive forested open spaces would benefit from a similar level of care that is afforded the city parks and fields.

Randy LeBlanc, At Large: Like anything there is always room for improvement. I was happy to be placed as one of the two City Councillors on the rail trail committee and I am very excited this is finally moving forward. I would like to work on a Master Plan just for the open space and get public input for what needs we have.

Carlos Vidal, At Large: The city has done a good job managing the open space we have, however, there are always ways to improve the way it is managed so we can maximize the use of the space by all Waltham residents. The way we can improve this is by a close collaboration between the WLT, the city and other city agencies to increase awareness of the space and its uses and funding to maintain these spaces.

2. Would you support the administration's request to create a Park Ranger position within the Recreation Department to help the City responsibly manage its forested parcels (many of which were acquired in recent years)?

Daniel Romard, Ward 1: ABSOLUTELY! I believe the Land Trust and its board members are aware of my full support for a dedicated resource initially, which hopefully will then grow into a team of individuals to oversee, help govern, maintain and report on our parks, open space and forested parcels.

Daniel Keleher, Ward 1: I would, and I would like to see that person manage the land and engage residents in its preservation. The best resources we have to protect our open spaces are the people who use them. Virtually every time I go walking in the woods, I return with an aluminum can or a bottle or other piece of trash. With some coordination, e.g. the placement of trash receptacles at appropriate locations and proper instructions, e.g. signage, many users would contribute in small ways, which, over time, would drastically improve the quality of our open spaces with minimal effort.

Bill Fowler, Ward 2: In this year's budget we created a new Assistant Directors position that is responsible for the management all of our open space.

John Saxe, Ward 2: I don't currently favor creating such a full-time position. I would need to better understand the issues and the costs involved in order to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of such a move. Would a single ranger be adequate? What would the ranger's responsibilities and authority be? These issues need to be spelled out before we can decide this matter. I don't have this information currently but will work to better educate myself on this matter after the election.

George Darcy, Ward 3: I am on record as having voted for the Park Ranger position submitted by Mayor McCarthy (in both 2015 and 2016). Unfortunately the majority of my peers on the City Council voted against such a position. The proposed \$55,744 Park Ranger salary represents 0.02% of the city's \$249,900,00 budget. We really need a dedicated resource to manage these beautiful parcels of land, for safety reasons and for public access.

John McLaughlin, Ward 4: I have voted in support of the Park Ranger position. It is an idea whose time has come. It is my hope we can move this initiative forward in the near future.

Kelly Damm, Ward 4: I am in favor of the creation of a Park Ranger position in the city. While it makes sense for this position to be housed within the Recreation Department, it would be ideal for the Park Ranger to serve the role of liaison between the Recreation Department, the CPW and the Police Department with regard to the management of our parks and open spaces. As it stands, it seems that much of the work of trail creation and maintenance is being done by volunteers, including Waltham Land Trust members. These activities should be coordinated and overseen by a Park Ranger, with funding support from the city.

Christina Montgomery, Ward 5: Yes. I believe that we need subject matter experts responsible for things like this. The city (and city council) are not experts in managing forest parcels. We should have someone who is an expert doing that work.

Kristine Mackin, Ward 7: Yes, I support the creation of a park ranger position, which can help ensure the safety and responsible use of our public lands.

Robert Logan, Ward 9: I would support the creation of a Park Ranger position, but not as currently proposed. The job description that the City Council has been provided with has so many enforcement duties (e.g. "crowd and vehicle control, coordination with other law enforcement officials, search and rescue...") it sounds to me like a law enforcement position. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Waltham Land Trust on the creation of a Park Ranger position for Waltham that manages and maintains our forested parcels.

Consuelo Valdes, Ward 9: Yes! We need someone who is accountable and dedicated to protecting and maintaining our parks and open spaces.

Patrick O'Brien, At Large: The most recent city budget included funding for an Assistant position in the Recreation Department who would fulfill some of the duties of the Park Ranger. I'm happy to support a position as long as the job responsibilities are clearly outlined and the person is held accountable to the taxpayers, residents and open space supporters.

Clarence Darrow Richardson, Jr, At Large: Yes, I would support the creation of this type of position, however I am not sure that the title of Park Ranger is appropriate. I think it is essential that any such position description clearly delineate which responsibilities concern conservation and recreation, versus park maintenance, versus law enforcement and public safety. A 3-1-1 system would also help maintain these areas even without a Park Ranger, because the public (and the Land Trust Stewards) who use this open space regularly would have an easy way to report issues and follow up on requests for services, and the City would benefit from having data about where problems tend to arise so it could apply its resources most effectively.

Diane LeBlanc, At Large: I was prepared to support the Park Ranger position in this year's budget. In fact, I worked on a re-write to address the concerns raised by Councilors the past two times it was brought in. I did not want the same thing to happen this time. I was rather pleased with the re-write and disappointed to get a call from Councilor Romard saying that the Administration wanted to go in a different direction and fill another Assistant Position that would do most of what the Park Ranger would have.

Kathleen McMenimen, At Large: Yes. I voted for the Park Ranger position, and if resubmitted, would do the same in the future.

Thomas Stanley, At Large: To help the City move forward with preserving open space, I believe Waltham needs to create and fund a full time park ranger position which could eventually grow to include additional part time staffers to care for our public forested land. I supported this idea during my tenure as a city councilor and if elected, will do my best to make this happen. Additionally, state grants are available to help maintain and improve our open space. Prior administrations have actively sought this funding and I believe the City should reinstate these efforts.

Pamela Perini, At Large: Yes, but it would be subject to Seasonality, Function, Job Description, Full/Part time and a number of other considerations and factors. I do not know if I would put this position under the recreation department either. There may be a partial position or another way to have a "Ranger-like" position filled within the City.

Bill Doyle, At Large: I would support a Park Ranger position that had authority and funding to make decisions regarding short and long term planning and that could direct maintenance and cleanup operations. I would take a close look at how all of our open spaces are managed today between the Recreation Department, the Consolidated Public Works Department, police, Conservation Commission and volunteer groups such as the Land Trust to determine the base scope and budget for the position.

Randy LeBlanc, At Large: I would absolutely support this but I would like to see future plans about the open space in the job descriptions. I'd also like to see expansion of a park and rec program for some of the at-risk kids in the summer when we have acquired more open space in our city.

Carlos Vidal, At Large: I will support the creation of a Park Ranger position as long as it is under the right department with jurisdiction to enforce current laws.

3. Should Waltham Land Trust's position on development guide the management of city-owned property?

Daniel Romard, Ward 1: Yes, the guiding principles of preservation and re-use are by their very nature foundational, and the Land's Trust position should be embraced and considered as we work to approve and allow for development, re-development and management of city-owned property.

Daniel Keleher, Ward 1: I agree with the importance of preserving open spaces, both large and small, and I am in favor of putting a premium on their preservation, creation, and utilization. I am in favor of the City's developing a master plan that manages future growth in the City so that Waltham Land Trust's position statement becomes in the very near future not only an aspirational one but an accurate one, i.e. that the preservation and utilization of open spaces is indeed their highest value. In other words, comprehensive planning and the Land Trust's position statement must go hand-in-hand. We need to plan for future growth (or lack thereof), transportation systems, education, economic opportunity, and future housing to ensure that the city's many needs, including for recreation, nature, solitude, independence, community, and environmental stewardship, can be met simultaneously. I am committed to making tough choices in the years to come to sensibly balance the many competing needs of Waltham's citizens. My goal is

for the development of any further undeveloped land to ultimately be unnecessary and undesirable.

Bill Fowler, Ward 2: The Land Trust's position on development is a good guide. However, as an example, a much needed new High School might be a higher priority than open space. I believe that the required conservation restrictions on open space already acquired should be completed and recorded.

John Saxe, Ward 2: I agree with Waltham Land Trust's stance on development. If we don't do anything to stem the development of our open spaces, we will lose the quality of life that is drawing so many to our city in the first place. Housing improvements should be targeted at parcels that have already been developed, but our zoning should not allow for the multiples of units over what currently exists on a given parcel.

George Darcy, Ward 3: Yes. The city should try its utmost to redevelop only on parcels already disturbed. And preserve and protect those city owned parcels that are forested and green. We need to protect our last remaining open spaces for generations to enjoy.

John McLaughlin, Ward 4: When it comes to open space and land use, I consider the Waltham Land Trust a partner at the table. I welcome their suggestions. I agree that Waltham needs to preserve our remaining open space, and would support low-impact uses for these lands.

Kelly Damm, Ward 4: I appreciate and share the concern regarding the preservation of our open spaces, especially the ambiguity around current protections of open space parcels and the need for formal commitment to replication should they be developed. I believe that the development in our city should be guided by smart growth principles, including a preference for redevelopment over new development, when feasible, and the creation of connected paths for alternative transportation. Open space is one of the city's key assets, and what draws many new residents to Waltham, but as our population grows, we are faced with the tension between preserving our open space and accommodating the increased housing and educational needs of new residents. Moving forward, there is an urgent need to develop a Master Plan that reconciles the thoughtful plans that have already been developed, including the Open Space Plan and the Education Plan, and clearly lays out a holistic approach to managing growth and development in Waltham.

Christina Montgomery, Ward 5: For the most part, yes. I particularly agree that new development, to the extent possible, should be sited on parcels that have already been developed and can be reused. Again, we need holistic planning to see this come to fruition. We need to evaluate the buildings currently in our city surplus and evaluate the reuse purposes for which they are best suited.

Kristine Mackin, Ward 7: I believe empowering a city planner to create a strategic long term vision for Waltham will help us make balanced choices that take into account the needs of our community both for infrastructure and for preserving our open space. I agree that adaptive reuse is the best way to leverage existing infrastructure while preserving open space, and would like to see the Fernald property fully protected from development, starting with restoration of the native wetlands on this site. I remain concerned about the location for the new high school, and would prefer to use a parcel of land that does not require significant deforestation but is still capable of supporting the educational plan developed by the School and School Building Committees. Preserving wildlife corridors and habitat is vitally important; once an ecosystem is disrupted it is

difficult to restore, and I would incorporate consideration of the ecological impact into my decision making on new developments.

Robert Logan, Ward 9: I am a member of the Waltham Land Trust and share its goal to preserve as much open space as possible for future generations. I agree that redevelopment of already developed parcels is more beneficial than new development on vacant parcels. In the Downtown I support “smart growth” and “transit oriented development” as strategies to revitalize old properties while reducing traffic impacts and preventing sprawl. On the Fernald property, I support Councillor Darcy’s call for the restoration of the wetlands that were illegally filled-in by the state, and for providing adequate space for that section of the Western Greenway that traverses the property. I look forward to working with the Waltham Land Trust on these and other issues in the future.

Consuelo Valdes, Ward 9: Absolutely! The Waltham Land Trust's position on development seems like a common sense approach to development in Waltham while balancing the need to maintain and protect open spaces and parks for recreation and conservation in our city. As far as Fernald, I support maintaining it as open land and hope the city can begin the clean up process soon. Though I agree that the city should focus on redevelopment rather than using what remaining open spaces remain, the Stigmatine property was the choice of the school building committee after reviewing the land available and it’s for the best of the community. What land can remain open on the Stigmatine property I support keeping open given the need for a new high school are satisfied.

Patrick O’Brien, At Large: I support the Waltham Land Trust’s position on development. I voted against more condos on Grove Street and College Farm Road this year.

Clarence Darrow Richardson, Jr, At Large: I believe the Waltham Land Trust’s position is shared by a majority of the residents in Waltham and that City-owned property should be managed in a manner that respects that. Based on my conversations with people throughout my campaign and time in Waltham, almost everyone I have spoken with is concerned that there is too much development. There are two proactive ways to address this development. First, is modification of the zoning. Right now developers are building most of these developments or new homes by right and by the time buildings are being constructed that change the character of our neighborhoods it is already too late to do anything about it. Second, better planning and incorporating the Open Space plan into a City Master Plan, which balances the growth that Waltham will see.

Diane LeBlanc, At Large: We are fortunate to have the Land Trust in Waltham. In general, I support your mission and the procurement of open space whenever we have the opportunity. I do think we need some flexibility to ensure that we are able to meet all municipal needs.

Kathleen McMenimen, At Large: The Waltham Land Trust’s position on development is a helpful and principled, applicable guideline, along with other tools including zoning, planning and other ordinances that I believe the City of Waltham must use for maintenance of a beneficial “quality of life” for all of Waltham’s citizens. I hope that the Land Trust membership will delve into the individual voting record of the current candidates (including my record) on issues that were contrary to the guidelines being suggested.

Thomas Stanley, At Large: To best preserve our natural resources, I believe that the WLT position on development of city-owned property should be a guide for city officials. I support the city acquiring the Arrigo Farm off Beaver Street with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding

without further delay. Any development on the city's open space should only be considered when there are no other options for conflicting municipal priority needs. For instance, if viable, I would have supported the creation of a new high school at the Fernald or Stigmatine properties. Both would prevent disrupting our students learning environment. I support building the new high school at the only viable location identified at the current site utilizing school property. I do not support building on the Storer land. I do not support taking property by eminent domain for a public purpose when other options are available. However, I do support a friendly purchase of the Stigmatine property to prevent future development on the site and preserve additional open space. Regarding the Fernald Property, I have fought for a comprehensive community reuse process to prevent over-development on that site. Personally, at a minimum, I have always believed that the majority of the land should be preserved for public open space and recreation. Any limited development ought to be for a necessary municipal need or minimal impact means to finance and maintain our open space and recreation. However, any reuse decisions must be made with a comprehensive and professional asset and reuse assessment with extensive public involvement and support.

Pamela Perini, At Large: I believe that most of the Guidelines are good guidelines and presented well. I think the main point that I agree with whole heartedly 100% is the portion related to redevelopment. Redevelopment is far better than overdevelopment. One of the main issues with redevelopment however is what I will refer to as doubling down. An example of this phenomenon is if a developer purchases a two-family home, tears it down and builds a four-family. This is going on everywhere. DeVincent Circle Rotary is an example of this phenomenon (one house turns into 4 overnight) that needs to be assessed before allowed. Current City Council has been enabling far too many special permits and is not protecting our City or its Open Space. They also need to protect existing space as not to allow multiple double downs that will only tax our city and all of the services it provides.

Bill Doyle, At Large: Yes, we need to determine where we want development and growth and where we want conservation and protection. For development, we should be looking to those areas that have been previously developed and that are near utilities, mass transit and other amenities. For land that is to be preserved as open space we need to begin a process of creating true "Conservation Restrictions"; simply zoning a piece of property as "Conservation Recreation" provides no protection of the property, especially if the property is owned by the city.

Randy LeBlanc, At Large: The Waltham Land Trust has a vested interest in our open space and I would like them to be a part of public input in management for how the open spaces will get used. The WLT has done a great job of maintaining and keeping them clean. Being an avid biker, runner, and hiker, I love having places to walk with my children.

Carlos Vidal, At Large: I don't think it is about guiding how the city manages city-owned property but working together with the city to reach a common goal in which we can balance development while maintaining open space for all.

4. The Waltham Land Trust continues to encounter people tenting/living along Waltham's trails and open spaces. We are concerned about a potential lack of facilities for folks who need them. What will you do to help this situation?

Daniel Romard, Ward 1: In general, I believe that the City and the State provide adequate services, support and facilities to a vast number of organizations that help these tenting communities,

individuals and groups. Could these be improved? Of course, however, I believe what is needed, and I will continue to support, is to increase our pro-active outreach to these people. If we can find them and educate them to the benefits and friendships these organizations/services provide, then the increase in numbers and participation rates will undoubtedly justify the need for additional funding and services. The key here is to get them there first.

Daniel Keleher, Ward 1: When I helped with the removal of the shelter on the Mass Central Rail Trail corridor this past spring, I was torn about doing so. I did not want to deprive anyone of a home. But at the same time, I appreciate that certain locations are inappropriate for private shelters. We can pursue at least two basic solutions to solving the problem of people sleeping near trails and in open spaces. The most urgent of the two is to create safe and desirable spaces for homeless people so that no one feels compelled to sleep or live in park lands. I am also open to the possibility of providing defined outdoor spaces, subject to reasonable regulations, in which people may sleep. These fixes are unlikely to solve the problems we face because they will almost surely invite more homeless people to the City. Solving homelessness requires attention to social inequality, unemployment, mental illness, unbalanced allocation of burdens among municipalities, and many other socioeconomic and public health factors. Because of a lack of effective leadership, however, the current City council is unprepared to effectively address the issues this question raises. City council can address the problem of homelessness and many other problems besides only with new leadership. If elected to council, my plan is to address the tangible needs of the City's residents that most command their attention. These needs are not to promote more growth in the City or to deal with isolated problems as they arise or to give broad proclamations. Rather these needs are to improve the City's schools, transportation, and infrastructure on a long-term and sustained basis. Of course, addressing these needs provides opportunities to simultaneously address other needs. For example, one way to reduce traffic congestion is to provide transportation alternatives that are less polluting. Equally important, once we have leadership in place that effectively reduces traffic congestion, provides transportation alternatives, repairs sidewalks and roads on a city-wide basis (not just a street here and a fixed street there after seven years), we are likely to garner the further public support that is necessary to tackle additional public problems. With a vision of where we are heading and a tenacity for involving the public in my campaign and my work, I am the only Ward 1 candidate capable of effectively leading the Ward to solve the City's many problems and utilize its many opportunities. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 7.

Bill Fowler, Ward 2: I have been an advocate for affordable housing for many years. We have millions of dollars in the Housing Trust Fund as well as the CPC that would go a long way towards helping solve this problem.

John Saxe, Ward 2: Affordable housing is a serious concern for Waltham and surrounding communities. We need to invest our CPA funds into converting existing housing stock into affordable units to make housing more available to a wider group. At the same time, we need to diagnose the homelessness problem holistically and address all the issues that contribute to this problem, which extend far beyond housing affordability.

George Darcy, Ward 3: I am definitely an advocate of installation of portable toilets and potable water at some of our major open space parcels, such as at former Metropolitan State Hospital land and the Storer Conservation Area, for the benefit of all residents who frequent the parks. I have also submitted a resolution to the City Council for a state-of-the-art multi-modal train station in

downtown Waltham, fully enclosed with heat and AC, including public restroom facilities to service the many commuters and visitors to Waltham.

John McLaughlin, Ward 4: Approaching this question from an affordable housing standpoint, I am in full support of new affordable housing initiatives. Waltham is an increasingly more expensive City to live in. Whether it be families, seniors or our veterans, we need to look at this challenge more aggressively to find solutions.

Kelly Damm, Ward 4: The city needs to ensure that those currently living in open spaces are connected with the numerous resources that community organizations in Waltham provide, whether it be related to housing, health or education. We should ensure that the Health Department and the Police Department are reaching out with information on these services, and, if needed, look to increase funding for these organizations through our Community Development Block Grants so that they can address this issue specifically.

Christina Montgomery, Ward 5: This is something I, and my neighbors in Ward 5, have expressed concerns about. We see the issue with lack of services leading to people congregating and/or living, on the river walk behind the Shaw's in my ward. To help with this situation, all over the city, I think we need a multi-prong approach: we need to work with service providers to determine what additional services this population requires, we need to allocate capital to fund such services, and we need to come up with creative ways to do both. Perhaps we involved some Waltham corporate partners in coming up with funding, or look at the reuse of surplus buildings to house such services. Again, back to holistic planning, and involving subject matter experts. I am not an expert on services this population. So, I would want to seek out advice and brainstorm ideas with those who are the experts.

Kristine Mackin, Ward 7: I am committed to ensuring that Waltham provides resources for all our residents, regardless of their housing status, and would work to support services that provide assistance to those in need. The recent warming shelter resolution is a good example of the kind of work our city can do, and I would support additional actions of this kind. Waltham has many resources in our community, and by working together we can meet the needs of all people in our community, and ensure our public lands are used appropriately and preserved for future generations.

Robert Logan, Ward 9: The City of Waltham currently leases two municipal properties to the Middlesex Human Services Agency for the operation of the Bristol Lodge Men's Shelter and the Bristol Lodge Women's Shelter. Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program we provide funding to the Waltham Community Day Center, Mary's House Family Shelter, the Bristol Lodge Shelters, the Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen, and the Salvation Army. I have supported all of these efforts and will continue to do so. The issue of homelessness is very complex. Therefore, I would support using CDBG money to fund a private study of homelessness in Waltham that could serve as the blueprint for addressing this issue, so that we can make informed decisions and more effectively allocate our resources toward fighting this problem.

Consuelo Valdes, Ward 9: I will work to ensure the success of affordable housing programs, like the WATCH/WHA lottery pilot program and incentivize developers to renovate existing structures or redevelop for the purposes of creating affordable housing. Further, I would reach out to Newton, given their 10-year plan to end homelessness and the \$67k they have in their budget for homelessness; to understand and learned about their programs and how we can roll something similar out in

Waltham. I know we have the day shelter and emergency shelters when it's below freezing but more structure for the assistance and prevention of homelessness is needed.

Partrick O'Brien, At Large: In my role in the private sector, I recently worked at two state sponsored "Surge" events. These events were designed to help the homeless find housing, health care and other vital services. Waltham should sponsor something similar to this effort.

Clarence Darrow Richardson, Jr, At Large: As a volunteer at the Community Day Center, I have worked with and gotten to know some of Waltham's homeless population. My wife, Anna, works with homeless veterans every day. I would utilize these relationships to find out what services and facilities these people need, because often times it is much more complicated than just shelter. I have also heard about other communities bringing their homeless to Waltham because we offer shelter services like the Bristol Lodge, so I think it is important to work with surrounding communities and the state to obtain the resources to help these folks.

Diane LeBlanc, At Large: I have always supported the opening of an emergency shelter during the winter months and will continue to do so. The reality is there are not enough shelter beds and many who struggle come to Waltham because the services are better than in most other communities. We need to continue to work with the City's Social Worker, Police, Housing, and social services organizations to provide support that addresses the reasons for homelessness.

Kathleen McMenimen, At Large: This question pertains to a hugely difficult and complicated issue. The Land Trust is concerned about these people who are using outdoor space/land as their home, but the reasons, problems, solutions for this difficult issue of "homeless people" goes far beyond the physical boundary of outdoor, land use. Our City is trying to address this problem from many angles; indoor, safe space from weather and predators; police presence to prevent unwanted behaviors against this population of people; medical attention for a host of physical issues; counseling and mental health support for many of these people who have multiple mental health problems. I have supported efforts to work positively for helping this population; i.e. providing a nightly shelter from the winter weather; helping to support the Food Kitchen; supporting a police presence to work with this population on a regular basis: working with our Housing Department and the Waltham Housing Authority to find alternative resources. I will continue my support for these efforts.

Thomas Stanley, At Large: People tenting/living along Waltham's trails and open spaces discourages the public from using these properties. Waltham needs to do more to provide services and create safe and affordable housing for folks in need. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and CPA funded housing vouchers are underutilized. Builders ought to be required to incorporate a higher percentage of affordable units into developments rather than finance the AHTF. Additionally, we really need to focus on providing housing with supportive services for individuals facing addiction or in need of mental health services, which are both factors driving homelessness. We need to look at public spaces such as the former city dog pound on Felton Street. By turning this space into a homelessness facility, we can service and shelter those in need while at the same time discouraging use of public spaces such as the library, Waltham Common, Prospect Hill and the Charles River walkway for tenting/living.

Pamela Perini, At Large: There is a homeless problem across the country. It is not native to nor only found in Waltham. Patrolling the sites is an option but the folks who are tenting will simply move to another location. This is a far larger issue related to other factors including but not limited

to Housing, Employment, Mental Health, Drug Abuse, etc. to name a potential few –they are all connected. This issue is far larger than tenting. I will work with my fellow councilors to creatively find solutions that are low cost, effective and that will have a limited impact on our tax base.

Bill Doyle, At Large: Increased use and maintenance of the parks, open spaces and trails will make these locations less desirable for these types of encampments, however that does not solve the problem of homelessness in Waltham. Providing employment opportunities, sensible housing options and shelter facilities in areas where support services exist is what we must evaluate.

Randy LeBlanc, At Large: As the rail trail progresses I would like to see call boxes on them in case of medical emergencies and or security issues. Also it will increase the need for more police on bicycles, which can access our trails better and we can keep all encroachments to a minimum.

Carlos Vidal, At Large: If you are referring to homeless people living along trails and open spaces, then we need to address this by making living options more available to these people. This is a serious concern to me and I don't think it is only about trails and open space being used by the homeless, but a larger issue that we, as a city, need to tackle.

5. For Wards 8 and 9, and others if they are interested: What is your vision for the Woerd Avenue Landfill site? How would you work with fellow city officials to move forward with the capping of the landfill to create open or recreational space?

Robert Logan, Ward 9: I am fully in support of capping this landfill and creating both open space and recreational facilities on this site. I supported the Mayor's recent request to the City Council for authorization to apply to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a \$4.25M loan guarantee for this purpose. Open space is a precious commodity, especially on the South Side, so we need to make that a priority. My vision of this site is one that provides residents with the recreational opportunities they want while preserving as much of the property as possible as open space. Two things I would like to see included in the final plan are a reconstructed and expanded skateboard park, and a soccer field, which is badly needed on the South Side. When the Peter Gilmore Playground was in need of reconstruction, I worked with Ward 8 Councillor Stephen Rourke to hold a series of public meetings to gather input from South Side residents. As the process went on now Councillor at Large Carlos Vidal became involved, and he brought more residents with him so that all voices were heard. The result of this lengthy but very inclusionary process is a park that serves the needs of all residents, has more green space than the previous facility, and that is arguably the most beautiful park in all of Waltham. I look forward to working with the new Ward 8 Councillor and my colleagues on the Council, together with the Mayor, the Planning Department, residents, and all interested groups such as Waltham Land Trust, to develop a plan for this property that provides both the open space and the recreational facilities that the public wants.

Consuelo Valdes, Ward 9: Reading through the proposal, repurposing this state-owned land to become a park and open a pathway to the Charles River and Greenway seems like a wonderful plan; especially given the needs to make the space accessible to be ADA compliant. It would be amazing to have a walking path that connects to the greenway and goes around a play structure of some kind, but this really depends on what the community wants. I would reach out to the team listed in the application and work with city councillors, city planner, and the mayor to see how we can move this project forward. I'd also want to start the electronic community input sooner rather than later, the proposal shows meetings from 2015, if this project is going to move forward we need

community engagement and input, especially after the learnings from the Peter Gilmore playground project.

Bill Doyle, At Large: We need to understand the risk associated with this landfill by following through with the RFP developed in 2015, or an amended version; to hire a professional to look into the property. The assessment needs to assume that the property will be for human contact recreational use so that the proper risk assessment is established thus creating the appropriate risk management approach. Not only is the landfill not capped, but it is also unlined and is a high risk to the Charles River and its open spaces.

Randy LeBlanc, At Large: We should evaluate the needs of the city. Whether it be a dog park, a cemetery, a bike track for the kids, or even just passive recreation, we should make better use of all the land we have access to.