
About Stephanie

Stephanie's love for Amherst is what brought her back to town, and what inspires her campaign for the Select Board.

She and her husband, Jonathan, moved here in 1996. She lived here for several years as a child, living in North Village Apartments and attending Mark's Meadow Elementary School. She had returned often in the interim because her father, John Coull, remained in this area, where he owned and operated Valley Bicycles for many years.

Stephanie graduated from Boston University with bachelor's degrees in Mass Communications and Classical Civilizations. She worked in public relations in the automotive industry before changing her focus to local volunteer work. Jonathan is a computer programmer, and they and their pets live on Butterfield Terrace.

Two years ago, Stephanie started a blog to share and discuss her Town Meeting votes, in an effort to bring some accountability to that anonymous and inscrutable process. She later started a web site, inAmherst.com, to provide a new source for local news and information. Stephanie found her niche in attending Select Board meetings and writing detailed recaps of them, to help others be better informed about Town government.

Stephanie is running for Select Board because she can provide the collaborative and productive leadership that Amherst needs.

www.StephanieOKeeffe.org

Contact Stephanie:
info@StephanieOKeeffe.org, or 549-1195

Stephanie O'Keeffe for Select Board

Arnie Alper, Treasurer
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Amherst MA 01002

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for Select Board



**Collaboration.
Prioritization.
Information.**

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Friends,

We have so much to be proud of in Amherst.

Our downtown, our open spaces, our schools and libraries, our public safety forces, our Town staff and services, our higher ed institutions, and the spectacular diversity of people who make up our community – these are why we all live here.

But our financial situation is bleak.

Rising costs and inadequate revenues threaten our quality of life. Every year it gets more expensive to provide the same level of services. So every year we make cuts. We can't keep doing this – not if we want to preserve what we all value. The cumulative impacts are distressing.

We need leadership.

The Select Board sets policy. It needs to make addressing our budget's structural deficit a policy – and a priority. New revenues must be pursued and good opportunities must be embraced. The Select Board must set the tone, or else we risk losing that which we love about Amherst.

This is why I am running for the Select Board.

My campaign site, www.StephanieOKeeffe.org, details my views and my priorities for:

- Improving the Select Board's effectiveness
- Dealing with the budget
- Pursuing economic development
- Building partnerships for mutual benefits
- Keeping the community informed

If using the Internet is not convenient for you, I would be happy to provide you with a printout of my writings on these subjects, or to discuss them with you. Please feel free to call me at 549-1195.

I would be honored to represent you on the Select Board, and I hope you will vote for me April 1st.

Thank you!



Stephanie, Jonathan, Brewster and Moxie.

Stephanie's commitments to you

Collaboration within the Select Board, because that body must work together effectively in order to lead.

Collaboration with other entities, such as the Town Manager, staff and committees, the schools, the business community, local residents and more, because the Select Board can't move Amherst forward alone.

Prioritization of issues and goals as a body, because progress requires focus, and time is too valuable to waste. Stephanie's top priority is the Town's financial situation and all its implications.

Information about it all, because Stephanie believes strongly that good government requires transparency, accountability and accessibility. She is dedicated to finding new ways to inform the public about the Select Board's work.

Stephanie's service to Amherst

Meals on Wheels Delivery

Almost daily since Fall 2003

Council on Aging

Since Summer 2007

Select Board Meeting Recapper

Since December 2006, on www.inAmherst.com

Town Meeting Member and Blogger

Since Spring 2006

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Since Spring 2006

Amherst Friends for the Homeless/Shelter Sunday

Board of Directors, Since 2004

Amherst Survival Center

Board of Directors 1998-2000, Chair 2000-2002



With her trusty shopping cart, Stephanie has been delivering meals-on-wheels to residents of Clark House and Ann Whalen Apartments since fall of 2003.

Vote April 1st