

Brendan Tedstone – Candidate Statement – Board of Selectmen

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Brendan Tedstone. I am a candidate for Selectman in this year's town election.

I am a lifelong resident of Hopkinton. My wife and I are raising our two children here. My children, who attend the Hopkinton public schools, are the 7th generation that calls Hopkinton home. The town's Cultural Arts Center is located in the building where my Mother, Uncles and Aunt were raised. The present high school is built on the land that was the farm and dairy owned by my grandparents. I have worked with the DPW and Fire Department over many years.

My ties to Hopkinton run very deep. I appreciate our history and our community – over the years I have seen what works and what has not.

I am running for Selectman to bring a fresh but experienced perspective to the board.

Many are concerned about where our town is heading. It's concerning to see the recent mass exodus of lifelong town employees. Losing those employees hurts the town by losing their extensive experience and knowledge of what made the town as great as it is.

One hot button issue to speak about is always how to keep taxes down while maintaining status quo (or better) services for Hopkinton. There isn't an easy answer for this question as far as my research goes. Fiscal conservatism is up to us as a town. A few issues that scream out as a potential Selectman are the upcoming debt exclusion items that we, as a town, have voted for and are coming. Items like the new fire station, police station, DPW headquarters, etc. are sure to make taxes rise, but how much they rise is up to the townspeople. Now is the time to manage change moving forward. I will work hard to make sure that the Legacy Farms Host Community Agreement is looked at and followed so as to assure that this project is tax revenue positive as discussed at the time of the purchase. I think it's important to do our best to attract the right kinds of business and developments in town to allow us to keep the town as quaint as we can while not sacrificing the quality that we have with our exemplary services

My concern is for Hopkinton and Hopkinton only. I have no agenda. I'm not a career politician. I will always be accessible and available to listen to our neighbors. For the people that know me, they will tell you that I've always been a straight shooter. My goal is to be responsive to the citizens of Hopkinton – and only them.

I will sarcastically say that you may have seen a sign of mine out in a friend's or neighbor's house. Know that the reason I'm running for Selectman is to better the town. I'm as honest and approachable a Selectman as you will find and I'm humbly asking for your vote on May 16. I look forward to a healthy and open governing process where we respect our past as we move forward together. Thank you in advance for your consideration of me for Selectman. I would be humbled and grateful for your support.

-Brendan