

Meet the Candidates

Democratic Candidates

First Selectman: Lynn Mellis Worthington

Selectman: Glen Sanchez

Tax Collector: Deborah Devaux

Planning & Zoning: Larry Dumoff, Sarah Chase

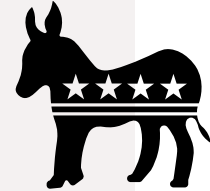
Board of Education: Jenn Duncan, Heather Brand

Board of Finance: Fran Goodsell, Casey Cogut

Board of Assessment Appeals: John Veltri

Zoning Board of Appeals: Dan Schiesel, Elizabeth Aviles (Alternate)

Sewer Commission: Ellie Place



Republican Candidates

First Selectman: none

Selectman: Ed Matson

Tax Collector: Deborah Devaux *(endorsed by both parties)*

Planning & Zoning: none

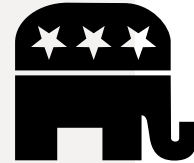
Board of Education: Katherine S. Symonds

Board of Finance: Lynn A. Harrington

Board of Assessment Appeals: Rufus P. deRham

Zoning Board of Appeals: Anne Bisenius, Nicholas Downes

Sewer Commission: Jack Nelson, Joseph D. Agli



Petitioning Candidates (all are Unaffiliated)

First Selectman: Rufus P. deRham, Marty Lindenmayer

Selectman: none

Tax Collector: none

Planning & Zoning: Adam Manes, Matt Winter

Board of Education: none

Board of Finance: none

Board of Assessment Appeals: none

Zoning Board of Appeals: none

Sewer Commission: none



Candidate Biographies



First Selectman

Lynn Mellis Worthington (D) has lived in Kent for 33 years. She worked for the Kent GTD for five years and a series of different area newspapers, including two different stints at the Republican American, covering Kent. She also worked full-time at South Kent School for 26 years in a variety of roles, including as an academic administrator, college counseling director, faculty member, former Publications Director, Director of Technology and Dean of Faculty. She is also an adjunct professor with Syracuse University, teaching a creative non-fiction writing course.

Long an active volunteer in Kent, Lynn served with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years in various capacities, many times chairing committees, and was instrumental in setting up and documenting the department's policies and establishing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). She was a volunteer soccer coach, Girl Scout leader and town coordinator, church school teacher and officer with Kent Pony Club. She was a trustee of the Kent Historical Society for five years and served as KHS president for two years. Lynn is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Merwinsville Hotel Restoration, Inc., a nonprofit in Gaylordsville. Married to John Worthington, they have two adult daughters, Cassandra, 29, who lives in Maryland and Trish, 24, who lives in Rhode Island. Lynn's parents, Robert and Jo Mellis, live in Templeton Farm Apartments.

Martin Lindenmeyer (Petitioning Candidate, U) “Marty” spent over 34 years serving as a Senior Intelligence Officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency and as an Intelligence Officer with the US Navy (Retiring as Captain) specializing in intelligence support to combating terrorism, counter insurgency operations, and strategic planning. His assignments have included counterterrorism operations in Israel, the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, and Asia as well as counter-drug/counter insurgency operations in Central and South America. He also served as the Senior Intelligence Officer at the US Special Operations Command Washington Office in the Pentagon, where he routinely briefed and conducted strategic planning with members of Congress, senior White House, and National Security Staff. His travels have taken him to over 100 countries where he has participated in US, NATO, UN, and other Allied missions including humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

He has been a lecturer on Homeland Security with the Justice and Law Administration program at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) and currently is an Adjunct Professor teaching Geopolitical Strategies in the Master of Science in Homeland Security program at WCSU. Marty previously served as lecturer and subject matter expert on counterterrorism operations and international security policy issues at the US Naval Academy, Naval War College, Defense Intelligence College, Minister of Defense in the United Kingdom, Brooklyn Law School, University of Arizona as well as DePaul University.

Since retiring to Kent, CT in 2014, Marty has coached baseball and soccer at Kent Center School, served as Chairman of the KCS Board of Education, President of the Kent Lions Club, Commander of the American Legion Post 153 in Kent, and as a Trustee with the local Catholic Parish. Marty lives with his wife Kathleen, a Kent native and retired Navy Captain and current Director of the Career Success Center at WCSU, in Kent, CT

Rufus de Rham (Petitioning Candidate, U) has a lifetime relationship with Kent. His grandmother, Katherine Evarts, ran Cobble Hill Farm for many decades and, as a single mother of five and a farmer, she found time to sit on the Board of Ed, support the library, fund raise for Child Welfare, and serve four terms as the district representative in Hartford in the 1950s and 1960s. She was his mentor and got him involved when she pushed him to fill a vacancy on P&Z. Since then, he has served on P&Z, the Zoning Board of Appeals, 11 years on the Board of Finance (3 as Chair), a term as selectman in the 1990s, has been a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for many years and is currently serving a term as selectman.

Rufus taught high school for 30 years, and ran the adult softball program in New Milford for 20 plus years. He was president of the New Milford Homeless Shelter Coalition from 2013 until COVID closed it down, and is a past President of the Kent Lions Club, he also coached youth soccer in Kent, and girls’ tennis at HVRHS.

He has been a member of the Kent Volunteer Fire Dept. since 1978, an active EMT for 30 years and ambulance chief for three years. During his time as Ambulance Chief, the KVFD upgraded its designation from basic to advanced ambulance service. He also served on the state committee to write questions for the EMT exams. Since retiring from teaching, he has worked at the New Milford Senior Center as its Chore Services Coordinator.

“Most importantly, four of my five children live in Kent and are involved with the community, so my life long investment in Kent includes caring for the future well-being of the town.”

Selectman

Glenn Sanchez (D) has lived in Kent for 28 years, at Marvelwood School, where he teaches US History and Philosophy and serves as Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; he also teaches several subjects at Education Without Walls in New Milford. Completing his first term as Selectman, Glenn is a member of the ARPA Assessment Committee, the Swift House Task Force, and the Main Street Noise and Traffic Subcommittee. As a member of the Kent Democratic Town Committee, he has helped raise money at local events, knocked on doors for candidates, and met other Democrats in all levels of Connecticut government.

Glenn’s many ties to the community include becoming the new president of Kent’s Lion’s Club, being an active member of St. Andrew’s Parish—and not least his wife Sarah, the Director of the Kent Memorial Library, and his two children, both graduates of Kent Center School and Marvelwood School.

Edward Matson (R) Ed Matson, a third-generation resident of Kent, is a devoted father to three sons—Lincoln, Jeremy, and Jonathan—and a loving husband to Constance. He's also the pet parent to Sunshine the dog and Fluffa'nutta' the cat. Ed's commitment to the community is both enduring and multifaceted. He served on the Board of Selectmen from 1999-2003 and returned for another term from 2019-2021. His 40-year dedication to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, in roles such as chief and president, showcases his longstanding involvement and leadership.

Professionally, Ed has devoted over 25 years of service to the State of CT DOT and has been a Kent business owner for two decades. His early achievements as an Eagle Scout signaled a commitment to community service. More recently, Ed played a crucial role in the beautification of Emery Park and the refurbishment of the Kent Center School ball fields, underlining his continual dedication to enhancing the charm of Kent.

Tax Collector

Debbie Devaux (D) A lifelong Kent resident, Debbie lives in Kent Hollow in the house her grandparents moved into in 1912. She feels privileged to have watched Kent grow and change over the course of so many years. Our tax collector since 1989, Debbie enjoys the job in which she’s been so successful. Debbie is a longtime member of the KDTC.

Board of Finance:

Fran Goodsell (D) Fran, who's lived in North Kent for 25 years, had a professional career as a school psychologist in Region 1 and still consults for the Region, as well as teaching online for the University of Florida. A current member of the BOF, Fran is also an active volunteer for the Kent Thrift Shop, the KVFD Auxiliary, the Board of the Kent Community Nursery School, and the KDTC.

Charles "Casey" Cogut (D) a homeowner in Kent since 1977, retired from the law firm of Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett, LLC, where he was noted for his negotiating skills and for his ability to advise corporate boards regarding governance issues and fiduciary responsibilities. Appointed to fill a vacancy on the BOF in 2022, he is now running for a full term.

Lynn Harrington (R) The roots run deep for longtime resident Lynn Harrington. She comes from an extended line of ancestors that have called Kent their home. She herself has resided in Kent for 38 years. She and her husband Chris (who also has local lineage) are raising two boys on the beautiful banks of the Housatonic River. The small local business that they run keeps them busy and on top of current issues. Coupled with her experience as a small business bookkeeper, this longtime Kent resident has gained a thorough understanding and love for the Town of Kent.

Lynn enjoys walks in the beautiful woods that surround Kent with her boys, gardening and hanging with her family. She also enjoys volunteering for and being involved with local organizations and non-profits including the former Kent Rod and Gun Club, KCS PTO, Kent Boy Scouts and Park and Rec.

Board of Education (Full Term)

Jenn Duncan (D) a lifelong resident of Kent, attended both Kent Center School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and her daughter will be a senior at the high school this fall. Currently living in South Kent, Jenn is Vice President of Risk Strategies Company, a specialty insurance brokerage firm where she focuses on placing insurance coverage for managed care organizations. She has served on both the Kent Center School and Region One Boards of Education for the past five years.

Katherine S. Symonds (R) has an 18-year career in schools, teaching in elementary classrooms and in administration. She is hoping to bring her commitment to education, school board experience, and love of Kent to the Kent Board of Education.

Board of Education (to fill a vacancy)

Heather Brand (D) In the 24 years that she's resided in Kent, Heather has devoted herself to supporting young people. In her professional life, she served as the Director of the Children's Room at Kent Memorial Library before moving to Marvelwood School, where she lives and works as the Dean of Students as well as the librarian. In a volunteer capacity, Heather has served on the Kent Community Nursery School Board of Directors and the Kent Park and Rec Commission at the local level, and the Association for Library Service to Children Budget Committee at the national level. A current KCS mother with a child in the first grade, Heather has two adult children that also went through the public school system locally. Heather believes in the public-school model and wants to support both the KCS community and the town as a whole.

Board of Assessment Appeals

John Veltri (D) A resident of Kent since 2013, John lives in South Kent. He has 20 years of experience in financial services and is currently at JPMorgan Chase, leading business development for premium credit card programs. Prior to that he worked for American Express in various marketing and partnerships positions. He looks forward to the opportunity to serve his community and would bring an analytical and fair approach to the position.

Rufus P. deRham (R) See bio under First Selectman

Planning & Zoning Commission

Larry Dumoff (D) A Kent resident since 1993, Larry lives just north of Bull's Bridge. As a licensed architect, Larry will bring an invaluable perspective to the board. He has extensive experience as an active board member, having previously served on the boards of the Architectural Review, the Kent Children's Center, and the Little Guild.

Sarah Chase (D) Born and raised in Kent, Sarah recently returned to town after a career based in New York City and Washington, DC. Her many professional positions include Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the National Eating Disorders Association, Executive Director of the Council for Federal Cannabis Regulation, Chief Operating Officer of Whistleblowers against Fraud, and Executive Podcast Producer for Clear+Vivid with Alan Alda.

As a volunteer, Sarah, a member of the National Association of Professional Women, is the Vietnam NGO Advisor and Ambassador for the Worldwide Orphans Foundation and serves on the Leadership and Business Development Committees of the National Small Business Association. She was recently accepted into the Civility Leadership Institute at Hiram College.

Matthew Winter (Petitioning Candidate, U) is the current Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission and has served on the Commission almost continuously since 2009. During this time, he has participated in two rewritings of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, the rewrite of the Town Zoning Regulations, and many edits to individual sections of those Regulations.

Matthew's near decade and a half of experience with Kent Planning and Zoning has afforded him a deep understanding of the Regulations and how they are tied to the Plan of Conservation and Development, and of his charge as a commissioner. Matthew's professional life in the commercial construction industry has likewise provided technical experience which is critical in understanding the intricacies of individual land use applications and compliance of those applications with what is permitted by our Regulations.

Matthew and his wife Alicia settled in Kent in 2000. Their two boys started their primary education at the Kent Children's Center and graduated from Kent Center School. A former Peace Corps Volunteer (Honduras '90 – '93), Matthew maintains a fundamental belief in the importance of volunteerism. He served as Chair of the Kent Volunteer Firehouse building committee and the Kent Community House renovation committee, and has recently joined the Kent Library building committee. He volunteers with the Kent Cub and Boy Scouts, the Kent Lions Club and the Kent Land Trust.

J. Adam Manes (Petitioning Candidate, U) and his wife Connie moved to Kent with their first son in the fall of 2002. Their 3 children grew up in Kent and went to the Kent Center School. He coached hockey for Kent Youth Hockey for many years and has volunteered in many ways in the town.

Service has always been important to Adam and his wife. In August, 2007 he was appointed as an alternate commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has served as an alternate commissioner and as full commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the last 16 years. During some of those years he also served as the commission's Treasurer and is currently the commission's Secretary.

His education included classes in construction engineering and drafting. Professionally, he has worked in residential and commercial construction and residential and commercial property management for 27 years. During that time he also managed a small farm in North Salem, NY. He and his wife raised beef cattle and sold hay for horses. He owns "The Country Caretaker", a residential property management company located in Kent, since January 2006. "I like to think that my background and my experience in construction, in property management and having run a farm gives me valuable experience when working as a planning and zoning commission."

Zoning Board of Appeals

Dan Schiesel (D) A resident of South Kent, Dan has lived in town for 43 years. A retired carpenter and builder, Dan previously served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for about ten years.

Nicholas Downes (R) A 50 year resident of Kent, Nick is seeking his third term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has served on the Kent Planning & Zoning Commission, the Housatonic River Commission, and he is a member of the Kent Lions Club. A member of Saint Andrew's Church, Nick is a Lay Preacher, Server, and past Senior Warden. He has had a long and successful career as a sales executive. He continues to represent Kubota Tractor Corp at Ruwet-Sibley Equipment Corp. A father and grandfather, Nick is married to the lovely Janet Downes, LCSW.

Anne Bisenius (R) has been on the Kent ZBA for the last 10 years, following almost 17 years on the Kent Planning and Zoning Commission. She has served as Vice President of Kent Affordable Housing and is a 30 year member of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, where she is a certified Firefighter I and a former EMT, and past chair of the KVFD Golf Tournament and Fireman's Ball.

She and her husband, Joe, have been residents of Kent for 37 years and raised two children, Matthew and Kiera, who both attended Kent Center School and HVRHS. Anne is the Associate Director of Donor Relations at The Hotchkiss School and enjoys kayaking, watching UConn basketball, reading on the beach, and travel.

Zoning board of Appeals Alternate (Full Term)

Elizabeth Aviles (D) has lived in Kent since 2003 with her husband and two children. In her professional career, she taught as a public high-school teacher in New York City, a substitute teacher in Region 1 and at Kent School, and a middle-school teacher at Washington Montessori School. Having retired last year, she looks forward to giving back to the community through the stewardship of the ZBA. Over the years, she's served on a number of local boards and committees, ranging from the KDTC to the Kent Early Learning Center, and as a Girl Scout Troop leader.

Sewer Commission (Full Term)

Ellie Place (D) grew up in South Kent, attended both Kent Center School and Kent School, and moved back to Kent in 2018 after graduating from the University of Charleston. A top associate at the Morrison Gallery in Kent, Ellie worked shoulder to shoulder with the Sewer Commission during the construction of the gallery. She is looking forward to participating in town governance.

Joseph D. Agli (R) is retired from the US Postal Service and is a graduate St. John's University. He is pursuing an elective position on the Town of Kent, CT Water Pollution Control Authority-WPCA. Some of the knowledge gained from service on the town's ARPA needs assessment committee can be applied to the WPCA's functions. A few of these examples include storm water drainage and remediation and low impact development of properties from nearby waters.

Jack A. Nelson (R) has been a Kent resident since 1980 and is a former sewer commission member. After 40+ years in the Environmental Construction Business he has developed a thorough understanding of the physical, chemical and biological processes required to operate the Town of Kent Water Pollution Control Facility.