

The Townsman 10: 2017

Each year since 1993, The Wellesley Townsman has published profiles of 10 residents or groups who have had an impact on the town, the world beyond our borders, or both. Nominated by readers and staff, the Townsman 10 represent a wide range of talents, contributions, backgrounds and ages.

Lise Olney

NAME OF PERSON OR PERSONS BEING NOMINATED:

Lise Olney

NAME OF PERSON(S) MAKING THE NOMINATION:

A handful of her "fan club": Scott Bender; Mary Gard; Regina LaRoque; Raina McManus; Quentin Prideaux; Jessica Stanton; Phyllis Theermann

WHY IS THIS PERSON BEING NOMINATED?:

We enthusiastically nominate Lise Olney as a Townsman 10 for her deep commitment, passion and dedicated hard work to preserve our planet and Wellesley's natural environment. She has been on Sustainable Wellesley's leadership team since 2011, helping to build a strong grassroots non-profit that advocates for sustainable living and decision-making in our town. In 2015, Lise co-founded the Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action to help organize people of faith to take collective action on issues of climate justice, and advo-

cate state-wide for a clean energy transition. For the past four years, she has served on the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission and acted as chairman. Under her leadership the NRC led the successful effort to pass a plastic bag bylaw, spearheaded the "Bring Your Own Bag" campaign, and created the "Grow Green Wellesley" (an eco-landscaping/pesticide reduction) initiative. Lise also organized a gas leak tagging event and public forum to draw attention to the harmful effects of Wellesley's 200+ gas leaks. She recently provided testimony on behalf of the NRC at the State House in support of pesticide regulation and to the Department of Public Utilities on the harmful effects of gas leaks. Many know Lise as she spreads her enthusiasm across a variety of groups including a garden group and political and religious organizations. Presently, she is researching ways to reduce the use of polystyrene



Lise Olney. [COURTESY PHOTO]

(Styrofoam), encouraging the use of non greenhouse gas emitting energy, working to save our town's tree canopy, advocating for preservation of open space, and crafting plans to flex our political muscle. While doing all this she is never too busy to advise and help others. We are grateful for all she does for Wellesley's present and future residents, and her unending hard work to make Wellesley a sustainable, healthier, and more beautiful town.