

# **Barbara Delisle**

## **Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award**

The John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee annually awards Westwood's highest honor to an individual who has been remarkable in service to the community. John J. Cronin, former Town Treasurer, gave selflessly of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community, both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize the spirit of community involvement illustrative of John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure we announce Barbara Delisle as the nineteenth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Barb was first elected to serve as a member on the School Committee in 2001 and served until 2010. She was appointed Chair in 2004 and 2009. Prior to serving on the School Committee, Barb served on the Site Councils for Deerfield School and Thurston Middle School. She also served on the Westwood Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

During her tenure on the School Committee, the town completed renovations at Martha Jones Elementary School and Downey Elementary School, as well as the construction of a new High School. Barb served as the School Committee representative to the Permanent Building Committee during the construction of the High School. The new High School welcomed students in 2005.

Throughout 2003 and 2004 due to a decrease in state funding, the School Committee experienced tight fiscal restraints. Barb and the School Committee worked diligently to maintain the same standards for our students. As a School Committee member, Barb was instrumental as the district continued its efforts to provide efficient and cost-effective services to students with special needs. As an alternative to out-of-district programs, special education programs were created at the Middle School and High School.

In 2008, she was closely involved with the Annual Town Meeting approval for a modular classroom addition and cafeteria expansion at Thurston Middle School. The Thurston Middle School project was completed on time and under budget. She worked to implement full-time kindergarten in 2009. In addition, Barb represented the School Committee on TEC (The Education Cooperative) where she served as Chair. Barb also served as a School Committee representative to the town's Long Range Financial Planning Committee for a number of years.

After she retired from the School Committee, Barb was appointed to serve as a member of the Finance and Warrant Commission in 2013 and served until 2020. She was elected Chair in 2020. During her tenure on the Finance and Warrant Commission, she was an active member of the University Station Sub-Committee and the Education Sub-Committee.

In her time on Finance and Warrant Commission, the committee recommended approval to Town Meeting of funding for a new Islington Fire Station and Westwood Police Station. Also, as part of the University Station Development, she reviewed Public Safety recommendations to adequately staff the Police and Fire Departments, in order to better serve the needs of the town. During Barb's tenure, funding was approved for Westwood to participate in the Massachusetts Building Authority (MSBA) grant program, for a proposed new Elementary School Building Project.

As part of the Finance and Warrant Commission Education Sub-Committee, she worked collaboratively to review enrollment needs, special education needs, and space and capital concerns.

As Chair in 2020, Barb showed great leadership as she guided the committee through unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With restrictions on public gathering sizes in place, Barb guided the Finance and Warrant Commission through the use of remote access meetings, to openly deliberate the annual operating and capital budgets.

Barb was an active member of the Roy London Humanitarian Award Committee from its inception in 2010 and is a Roy London Humanitarian Award recipient. The Roy London Award was presented annually from 2010 to 2019 to citizens of Westwood who demonstrated charitable action and the award was presented to approximately 40 residents and organizations.

While serving the Town in varying capacities, Barb gave generously of her time and demonstrated the qualities of leadership, dedication, and service. Barb is a dedicated member of First Parish Church, where she chaired the Stewardship Committee and presently serves as Assistant Treasurer. While her sons were young, she was active in their scouting careers, and both of her sons earned their Eagle Scout awards.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Barbara Delisle and add her name to the plaque displayed in Town Hall listing all previously honored individuals.