

## **John J. Wiggin**

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

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin Sr. served the Town for thirty-three years and selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement, as exemplified by John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure that we have chosen John J. Wiggin as the seventh recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Jack (as we all call him) is a life-long Westwood Resident. Jack's father, J. Herbert Wiggin worked in the Westwood Fire Department for 44 years, and served as Fire Chief from 1953 through 1981. In 1941, Jack's grandfather, David Henry Wiggin, who conducted the Norfolk Western Street Railway, which ran from Dedham to Medfield liked Westwood so much, he decided to settle here. As you can see Jack is third generation of the Wiggin Family. Jack graduated from Xaverian Brothers High School and received his undergraduate degree from Fairfield University and his master's degree from Boston State College. Jack is currently the Director of the Urban Harbors Institute, where he is responsible for the Institute's interdisciplinary research and public service projects on coastal area, port, and harbor issues. He has 20 years experience in coastal management, port and harbor planning and management, waterfront development, community planning, and public participation. Jack has provided technical assistance in these and related areas to state and national governments in the United States and abroad, and as we all are aware to our Town, Westwood.

Jack and his wife, Jane, live in Westwood and they have three children, John, Kara and Katherine.

Jack is committed to public service. He has demonstrated this by his generous and ongoing contribution of his expertise to the Town and to the broader Westwood community, particularly during an era of intense, long-range, strategic planning.

Jack was twice elected to the Planning Board, once in 1995 and again in 1998 and served until 2001. His specific planning expertise, and the reliance upon him by his fellow board members, is reflected in his Chairmanship of the Planning Board in 1997 and 2001. He currently serves, as an active engaged member, as is his trademark, on the Economic Development Advisory Board which began in 2006, and also began serving on the Housing Partnership in 1999, and currently serves as Chairman.

Jack was the driving force behind the creation of long-term master planning for the Town. He took a lead role in establishing, and subsequently chaired, the Comprehensive Town Steering Committee, an early precursor to the re-development of University Avenue. Jack also chaired the Town Centers Planning Committee, establishing plans and a road map to transition Westwood's two commercial corridors into thriving village centers.

Beyond Town specific functions, Jack serves the community through his committed involvement with Hale Reservation. Jack has been a Hale Reservation board member since 2001. He served Hale Reservation as Vice President and then as President from 2005 to 2008. During his tenure as Hale's President, Jack led the development of a master plan for Hale and he currently serves as the Chairman of the Land & Facilities Committee. He successfully conceived and launched the organization's first capital campaign; a program he then steered to a resounding success.

Jack is a Xaverian alumnus, Class of 1968. He has been quite active in the Xaverian Brothers High School Alumni Association and he co-chaired the Class of 68's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He was an advisor to Xaverian during their school construction process, especially in regard to the town's planning process. His son, John, who is carrying on the Wiggin legacy at Xaverian, will graduate with the Class of 2009.

Jack and his family are also long standing members of St. Margaret Mary's Parish.

Jack is an honorable, affable man who doesn't count the hours he volunteers. There is no pretense about Jack, as he volunteers out of a deep sense of service.

John Wiggin has displayed exemplary service, dedication, and commitment to the Town of Westwood. He has touched the lives of many Westwood residents through his involvement in many volunteer committees, giving his time, expertise, and commitment.

On behalf of The John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that I present this prestigious award to John J. Wiggin; and we add his name to the plaque which contains the names of the previously honored individuals, which hangs in our Town Hall.