

Nominees for the October 26, 2023, Election

Nominees for the Tamarack Trails Board of Directors 2024-2026

The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) has nominated Seven Members to stand for election to the Board of Directors (BOD). This election will take place at the Annual Meeting on October 26, 2023, to fill four of the seven Director positions.

For your review, the seven candidates have provided a bio and answers to questions that were submitted to them by the NEC. This year's nominees in alphabetical order are:

Keith Findley
Ellen Foley
Patricia King
Dave Larson
Cailin O'Connor
Paul Skidmore
Ginny White

Keith Findley – 11 Oak Creek Trail



1. Why I'm Running:

My wife, Susan, and I have lived in Tamarack Trails since 2019. We love the community and the life it offers. In January, I will be retiring from my faculty position at the University of Wisconsin Law School, so I will have time that I haven't had previously to contribute to the well-being of this community. I want to do so to help ensure that the community remains healthy and viable, and so that I can help to address the issues that I have outlined below.

2. Background:

I graduated from law school in 1985 and immediately began a teaching career at the University of Wisconsin Law School, starting as an instructor and supervising attorney in the law school's clinical programs, which provide legal education by guiding law students through the experience of representing actual clients in real cases. For all but six and one-half of the next 38 years (during which I was a public defender) I have taught at the Law School. In 2012, I left clinical work and became a tenure-track (and now tenured) professor, researching, writing, and teaching about wrongful convictions, criminal procedure, evidence, and forensic science. In 1998, I co-founded and for 19 years I co-directed the Wisconsin Innocence Project, which works to exonerate innocent and wrongly convicted people in prison. In 2003 I worked with colleagues from across the nation to help found the Innocence Network, an affiliation of innocence projects across the country, and now around the world. From 2009-2014 I served as President of the Innocence Network during a period in which we developed the Network into a professionally staffed and run international organization with a stable funding base. In 2019 I co-founded the Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences, where I continue to serve as President.

I also have been involved in local Madison issues, particularly those surrounding public safety and policing. From 2015 to 2019 I was a member of the Madison Police Department Ad Hoc Policy & Procedure Review Committee. As co-chair for the last two years of that Committee's work I was a principal author of the Committee's 180-page report that set forth a plan for advancing good policing in Madison, which was subsequently adopted by the Madison Common Council. For two years I served as a member of the Madison Police and Fire Commission, which oversees hiring, firing, promotions, discipline, and public complaints with regard to the police and fire departments. In 2021, I served as co-chair of the City's Police Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee, and principal author of that Committee's Report, which ultimately led to the city's recent adoption of a body-worn camera pilot project. And for two years I was a member, appointed by the Mayor, of the newly formed Police Civilian Oversight Board.

At Tamarack, while I have attended occasional meetings of the Board of Directors and other Committees, like the Architectural Review Board, my primary involvement to date has been as a member of the Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Solar Energy.

3. *Pressing Short-Term Issues:*

The Board's first responsibility is to ensure the financial solvency of the association and oversee the professional management and staffing of the association. Beyond that, the pressing issues I see include the following:

- a. Protection of surrounding natural areas, including the trees in Walnut Grove Park and Sauk Creek. Although I am a bicyclist and love Madison's bike paths, I was opposed to the installation a biking circuit through Walnut Grove Park, primarily because it would have added asphalt to the park and removed swaths of trees, for very little actual biking pathway. While it appears that threat to the Park has passed, the City still threatens to remove hundreds of trees and change the wild nature of Sauk Creek. I am firmly opposed to fundamentally altering the nature of this wild space, especially in a way that removes large numbers of trees, at a time of worsening climate change when we should be adding trees, not removing them. On the Board I would advocate for the Association with the City to stop the plan to remove large numbers of trees from Walnut Grove Park and Sauk Creek.
- b. I believe that our Association has a moral obligation to do what we can to contribute to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One way to do so is to install solar panels on the Club House and eventually perhaps other Association buildings. Happily, adding solar panels not only contributes in a small but important way to reversing our dependence on fossil fuels, but it also will save the Association, and hence all its members, significant amounts in utility bills over a number of years.

4. *Long-Term Issues:*

Long-term issues include:

- Working with police and city leaders to ensure that our community remains a safe place to live (for this, my experience working with police and police oversight entities in Madison will be helpful).
- Continuing to protect the wild spaces around Tamarack Trails.
- Continuing to find ways to make our Association less dependent on fossil fuels by, for example, transitioning away from gas-powered vehicles and equipment and the gas boiler for heating the pool, as that equipment ages out and needs to be replaced.

Ellen Foley– 7432 Cedar Creek Trail



My husband Tom and I have lived in Tamarack Trails since 2015 and we relish the quality of life and the friendships here. My expertise is in communications, marketing, publishing, and executive leadership. It's time for the Foleys to give back to Tamarack Trails, which is why I am running for the board.

I have been active in volunteer activities such as creating, building, and monitoring the Tamarack Trails Facebook Group page because I wanted to enhance communication post-Covid, particularly for our older members whose outdoor activity may be limited by winter weather. I have attended several meetings and advised board members on communications issues. I was active in the community movement to stop the mountain bike path in Walnut Grove Park. I currently am working with a small group to resolve the city's assertion that it owns part of our back yards along

the Service Road, and I also work with The Friends of Sauk Creek, an advocacy group with the goal of limiting the tree loss during the coming reconstruction of the creek.

Communication and leadership are central to my career. I came to Madison to take the job of editor-in-chief at the Wisconsin State Journal after stints at news organizations in Philadelphia, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and

Detroit. Stepping back due to a family illness, I led the \$134 successful referendum that transformed Madison College's campus. I took the role of Sr. VP of Corporate Communications at WPS and retired to my consulting practice working with several clients including the University of Wisconsin—Madison and Summit Credit Union. I teach journalism at Edgewood College. I have served on many non-profit boards such as Tempo, Forward Theater and Reach Dane, the area's HeadStart program.

Those experiences are a good foundation for a role on the Tamarack Trails Board of Directors. Short term, we need to focus on the condition of our homes, most of which are 40 years old and showing wear and tear that needs reconstruction in some cases. We need to address issues about shared spaces, such as the pool. At the same time, we need to continue to make Tamarack Trails affordable and not hike the HOA too high. Long term, as the city gets denser and we have more development nearby, we must stay aware of the city's efforts to manage our adjacent lands, such as Walnut Grove Park, the Greenway, the growing number of apartments and the new BRT structures. All of this needs precise communication and leadership. I hope to convince the community that I have those needed traits.

Patricia King – 104 Pine Ridge Trail

I grew up in Middleton. My girlfriend and I made the rounds visiting the business owners to meet and greet... a good way to communicate. I have kept up my communication with my high school friends and meet with them for lunch monthly in the west side area. When I was in 8th grade, my father had strokes which left him unable to work. From that time on, I worked at various jobs and paid for my own expenses.



I have lived in Tamarack for 24 years, 6 of which I chaired the RAC committee. I feel everyone in a community should participate in some way to help the community become a better place to live. My RAC committee and I put on some phenomenal events, including a boat ride on Lake Monona, dinner at Sugar River Pizza, a lunch at the University Club following a tour of the Chazen Museum, pool parties at Tamarack with steak sandwiches, pork sandwiches and numerous deserts and salads. All of the Tamarack residents were invited to the RAC events.

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Business School.

My degrees are in marketing and finance. I am a Certified Financial Planner.

I spent a number of weeks at the New York Stock Exchange learning my trade.

I worked for 5 years as the Assistant Director of Staff Benefits at the University of Wisconsin. In this position I wrote a financial newsletter and traveled throughout the state teaching how to invest for retirement through the 403(B) the educational arm for investing for retirement. I was the liaison for Katharine Lyell, President for the entire UW System. During that time, Bob, my husband and I purchased a flower shop which we ran for 7 years.

My greatest benefit to Tamarack by being a Board member would be listening to resident concerns and working with committees to implement solutions.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Dave Larson – 2 Red Cedar Trail



My wife, Ann and I were delighted to relocate to Tamarack Trails soon after my early retirement. Retirement has given me an opportunity to become actively involved in my community. I have enjoyed the work I have done to date with Tamarack and would appreciate the opportunity to take the next step to be on the board of directors.

I spent 34 years in the insurance industry in both sales and home office capacities. I am a CFP (Certified Financial Planner) and spent several years with an investment firm. After I retired, I formed a partnership doing remodeling and construction projects. My practical knowledge of construction principles adds value in an advisory capacity to the various board committees.

In 2022, through contacts I still have at Rural Mutual where I worked, the association signed a new insurance policy with Rural Mutual. This resulted in saving about \$70k on the association's premiums. The association recently renewed with Rural Mutual at a very small increase in premium. During these discussions, I worked with several members of the finance committee and enjoyed the experience. I am now a member of the finance committee. Last fall, I was instrumental in opening an investment account with Edward Jones to invest short-term cash in a ladder of CD's and/or T-Bills. This resulted in additional interest earnings for the associations short term cash.

I am a member and chairperson of the ad-hoc solar committee that began late last year. This committee continues to work on ways the association may conserve energy, thereby passing savings onto owners.

As the homes in Tamarack age, there are issues of improper contractor maintenance which must be addressed. I am in an excellent position to advise on best practices. Many changes are being implemented by the board and association manager. As a board member I will make this an ongoing priority.

Looking to the future, I feel it is necessary to address the association's maintenance of our wonderful amenities. Their upkeep is costly so it is critical to review all options to make sure our amenities continue to meet the needs of owners well into the future. The voice of the whole Tamarack community needs to be involved in these decisions.

Cailin O'Connor – 9 White Pine Trail



I've lived on White Pine Trail since April of 2020 - an interesting time to move to a new community! As we've all gradually re-entered our social worlds, I have wanted to get more involved in Tamarack Trails. My teenage daughter and I have enjoyed getting to know our neighbors as well as walking the trails and swimming in the pool. You may have seen us on the trails with our big black dog, Buckley, who unfortunately passed away recently. In addition to the beauty of Tamarack and its amazing location, I love the sense of community and engagement in the neighborhood.

I have lived in Madison most of my life, aside from going to college in Minnesota and spending several years in Denmark as a young adult. I have a Masters degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UW-Madison and I work on early childhood policy at a DC-based organization, the Center for the Study of Social Policy. I also serve on Governor Evers' Early Childhood Advisory Council. At Tamarack, for the past year I have served on the ad hoc committee on alternative energy, which conducted a survey of residents and presented at a "Tam Talk" earlier this year.

I think there are some clear financial issues facing Tamarack right now with the need to update the pool, as well as the need to budget for rising costs of many goods and services. My impression is that the association is well-managed and can take these financial bumps in stride, but of course it requires continued careful tracking and responsible decision-making to maintain that stability. In the longer term, I would like to see Tamarack continue to be a good steward of the land we collectively own, and welcome a new generation of owners and residents. I would like to serve on the Board of Directors to help make Tamarack even more welcoming to younger residents and families, and help ensure a thriving Tamarack community as we pass the 50-year mark as an association.



1. Why do you want to be a member of the BOD?

Tamarack has been my home for the past 22 years. My wife and I chose to live here because of how well Tamarack was managed and maintained. I love being a part of the Tamarack community. I have a long and committed record of public service, and I feel that I have the education, knowledge, experience, and commitment to contribute to the leadership and management of Tamarack Trails. I have served as a Tamarack Board member since October of 2021, and I want to continue to serve.

2. Please describe your background and experience that would contribute to the Tamarack community.

- A. I served as the alder of the 9th district from April, 2001 to April, 2021. During my term as alder, I served on many committees that managed the City's operations and infrastructure. Some of the key committees that I served on include:
1. Finance Committee
 2. Board of Public Works
 3. Board of Park Commissioners
 4. Public Safety Review Committee

The duties of these committee are very similar to the duties of Board members and committee members of homeowners' associations, and I consider them appropriate training for managing the Tamarack Community.

- B. I currently serve as the Executive Director of Mount Olive Lutheran Church (110 N Whitney Way). Mount Olive has a building that includes a sanctuary, office, preschool, day school, gymnasium, and grounds (parking lot, playground, and landscaping). As Executive Director I provide oversight to our paid staff and several volunteer boards that manage the operations of the Church.
- C. I am a licensed landscape architect, and I have been an active practitioner for more than 35 years. I have a significant amount of experience designing, constructing, and managing public and private landscapes. I regularly participate in the planning, design, and construction management of large residential, commercial, and industrial projects in the Madison area.

3. What do you think are the most pressing issues at Tamarack and how would you work to resolve them?

I believe that Tamarack has been well managed over the years, but we are facing some challenges that need to be addressed to maintain and improve our quality of life:

- A. **Short Term** - Safety and Security – The City of Madison is experiencing a significant increase in criminal activity. Violent crimes (homicides, weapons continue be a problem throughout the city, and crimes of opportunity (burglaries, porch piracy, 'garage shopping', 'car hopping', etc.) continue to increase in Tamarack and other neighborhoods. There are ways that we can increase our safety and security. I will support and promote:
- 1) Working with residents and others to develop neighborhood watch programs to help protect our neighbors.
 - 2) Encouraging our alder, the City Council, and Mayor to provide adequate resources to the Madison Police Department to protect our neighborhoods and support crime prevention and violence intervention programs,
- B. **Short and Long Term** - Facility Management – Tamarack has a beautiful 'campus' of buildings, grounds, and amenities that are well maintained by professional staff. I will support and promote:
1. Working with the Board and staff to identify property problems and issues, and work to identify solutions that are practical, feasible, and financially responsible.
 2. Working with the Board to ensure that we continue to maintain prudent financial management to meet current budgets and future needs.
 3. As a landscape architect I will work with the Maintenance Committee and staff to maintain the park like setting, the diverse urban forest, and the landscaped grounds that set Tamarack apart from other neighborhoods.



1. Why do you want to be a member of Tamarack's Board of Directors (BOD)?

My husband Larry and I moved to Tamarack in 2017 and are planning to stay here for years to come. I believe in public service and would be happy to use my education, skills, and experience on behalf of this wonderful community.

2. Please describe your background and experience that would contribute to the Tamarack community. What have been your past contributions to the Tamarack community? (Some examples are serving on committees, attending meetings, contributing ideas, participating in work groups.)

I'm familiar with Tamarack's day-to-day and long-range operations. I served on the Resident Activities Committee (RAC) for one year and I've been on the Welcoming Committee for four years, the last two as chairperson.

I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public affairs from UW-Madison. I spent my 30-year federal career as a human resources manager for three agencies within the US Department of Agriculture. I worked with a wide range of individuals: job applicants, employees, supervisors, managers, executives, union officials, consultants, and others. I have the qualifications and temperament needed to establish good working relationships and solve problems.

I've contributed several ideas for Tamarack's betterment, but the one with the most positive results is Tam Talks. After moving here, I noticed how many interesting, talented, and accomplished neighbors I had. I soon suggested that we should start a program of Tam Talks (modeled on Ted Talks). Learning about neighbors' careers, hobbies, and travels would be fascinating and would help promote a sense of community. Last year RAC adopted the idea and began hosting talks on a variety of subjects. I'm gratified that Tam Talks has become a popular feature of life at Tamarack.

3. What do you think are the most pressing short-term (approximately the next two years) issues for Tamarack? What are your thoughts or ideas about contributing to their resolution?

In the short term, Tamarack has at least two urgent issues to confront: (1) replacement of a 50-year-old swimming pool that has reached the end of its useful life and (2) replacement of structural components degraded by wood rot in residences and common buildings. I would contribute to solving these and other problems by helping research and analyze problems and evaluate possible actions and priorities.

4. What do you think are the most important long-term issues for Tamarack? How would you hope to contribute to the long-term well-being of Tamarack?

I think these are Tamarack's most important long-term issue::

- Maintaining an aging infrastructure.
- Ensuring sound financial planning into the future.
- Achieving active resident participation on the BOD and committees.
- Attracting and retaining good staff in a competitive job market.

I would hope to contribute to Tamarack's long-term well-being by being a conscientious board member who performs due diligence on matters that come before the BOD. I would always strive to do what's in the best interest of the community as a whole.