

## Candidate for Town Council



Colm Dobbyn

A 24-year resident of New Canaan, Colm Dobbyn is running as a Democrat for his first term on the New Canaan Town Council. A corporate attorney with MasterCard International, Colm has global responsibility for Intellectual Property (IP) and related legal technology matters at MasterCard, overseeing a team of 16 professionals.

Since 2006, Colm has served as a member of the Inlands Wetlands Commission, a position he says has given him a perspective on the importance of town government and motivated him to take on greater involvement in the town's government. "I have always been interested and engaged in political issues in New Canaan," Colm said, "and I believe that serving in an elected office would allow me to contribute more to the community."

He is committed to maintaining the town's high quality of life and cites the importance of preserving the high quality of the schools, sustaining the level of town services residents have come to expect and maintaining its open spaces and parks. "I feel strongly that it is important for citizens to act as stewards to protect and act in the best interests of New Canaan," he said.

Professionally, Colm has been recognized with a number of industry awards and honors. Last year, he was named In-House Counsel of the Year by the World Trademark Review and as an IP Star for three straight years by Managing Intellectual Property. He has also served as a board member, and later president, of the Westchester/Southern Connecticut Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. Prior to MasterCard, Dobbyn handled U.S. and international trademark issues for PepsiCo and earlier was in practice at the law firm, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

Colm graduated Bennington College in Vermont in 1980 with a degree in Biological Sciences and, after working for a number of research laboratories as an undergraduate, decided to pursue a law degree. He graduated from Fordham University Law School in 1984. He moved to New Canaan in 1993 with his wife, Melissa, who has since passed away, and has two grown children. After his wife's cancer diagnosis in 1999 and death in 2008, Colm placed a priority on raising his children while maintaining a demanding corporate legal practice. As primary caregiver and solo parent, Colm limited his involvement in civic and community organizations. But now that his children are young adults, Amanda having graduated from the University of Chicago in 2015 and James having just graduated from Cambridge University in England, he is eager to become engaged in serving New Canaan and lending his expertise..