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**2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire   
for Westchester Candidates**

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the New York League of Conservation Voters Questionnaire.

The New York League of Conservation Voters is the only non-partisan statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy and open space through political action. This questionnaire is designed to elicit your views regarding what environmental, public health, clean energy and transit and environmental justice groups consider to be the most important issues of the day. Responses may inform NYLCV’s educational and legislative programs and actions NYLCV takes in the election cycle.

Responses should be considered public. Although NYLCV may choose not to publicize responses to every question, verbatim responses may be reproduced and distributed publicly. If so, your responses may be shortened, if necessary, but will not be edited in substantive ways. If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite. For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, NYLCV will note as much in its public materials.

NYLCV and its partners in the environmental policy arena believe that New York’s voters are determined to make the environment a voting issue this year. Candidate positions on issues such as protecting public health, building a clean energy future, and mitigating climate change will help voters decide how to cast their ballots this election cycle. This questionnaire is one of the primary ways the public will get this information.

After receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our Chapter Board. The interview will provide you with an opportunity to present your credentials, elaborate on your questionnaire responses, and respond to questions. Here are a few more guidelines:

* Questionnaires are due**Friday, June 2**
* The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: [politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
* To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Peter H. Parsons  
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Press Secretary’s name and email:   
Scheduler’s name and email:

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

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| I think my record as Town Supervisor shows my commitment to the environment. I serve on the Board of the Energy Improvement Corporation whose mission is to promote a clean energy economy by facilitating renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures. I am President of the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation whose function is to improve water quality in the watershed by reducing the phosphorous content in storm water by building retrofits. Within the Town of Lewisboro a major objective of my time in office has been increasing accessibility to the Town’s Preserves by creating and maintaining trails and by building parking. The predictable result has been “build it and they will come”. As a politician, I know that it is important that taxpayers enjoy a benefit from the preserves.  I was raised in Gwyr in south west Wales where livelihoods depended on farming and fishing so I appreciate nature’s beauty but know that at the same time we must accommodate the need to make a living. |

**ISSUES**

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity with respect to, the following issues:

*(To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review* [NYLCV’s 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)*)*

1. Sustainable Development: Advancing modernized zoning to encourage mixed land use and compact development

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| We have encouraged agricultural properties in Lewisboro so that we now have 13 properties in the New York State Agricultural District and another 16 properties which are not in the District but do receive the exemption.  In 2016 we increased the area available for multifamily housing by adding it as a permissible use in all areas zoned for business and commercial uses. |

1. Invasive Species: Educating the public on this problem and implementing better management practices

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| While I have been Supervisor we have launched major initiatives to showcase native species and reduce the presence of invasive species. In the front of the Town House we have a native plant garden and next to the Leon Levy parking lot there is an extensive area devoted to native plants. In both cases there are explanatory signs/leaflets.  We are in the second year of a major invasive species removal project at the Leon Levy Preserve with new native species being planted. In addition a portion of the preserve is being returned to its previous meadow state. In addition three years of meadow restoration have been completed at the Old Field Preserve together with an experimental introduction of weevils to fight a mile-a-minute invasion in one portion of the preserve.  The Lewisboro Garden Club not only encourages planting native plants but also publicizes it. |

1. Cleaner Air: Speeding up conversions and retrofits of home heating oil No. 6 and No. 4 to more efficient heating systems

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| Lewisboro has access to programs offered by Energize. We are making solar power available at an affordable price via the Solarize campaign. We were an original adopter of the Community Choice Aggregation Program. |

1. Expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: Facilitating the development of a larger network of charging stations that will encourage more municipalities, businesses and individuals to switch to EVs in the coming years

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| Lewisboro has no electric vehicle infrastructure but three immediately adjacent hamlet centers (Katonah, Ridgefield and New Canaan) provide easy access. The lack of a substantial town center in Lewisboro means that we will lag our neighbors in this respect. |

1. Sustainable Public Access Management: Making significant impacts on energy use and the environment simply by deciding to spend money and deploy resources wisely

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| The major focus of my campaign for re-election is to develop a new Town Master Plan. The Town has a Complete Streets Plan but has made little progress because of lack of financial resources, a divided Board with varying priorities and the dominance of State roads in the three major hamlet centers. I view this election as our best opportunity to elect a new board with a strong environmental agenda which can be the basis for the new master plan. |

1. Transportation: Maximizing environmentally friendly mobility options in and around residential and commercial centers

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| Very much the core of a new master plan. |

1. Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development: Creating livable and sustainable communities that permit increased density and diversity in our downtowns and neighborhoods

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| This was very much the thinking behind the 2016 zoning changes. That said, progress in Lewisboro will always be limited by the geography of the Town and its lack of any real downtown. Existing transit options in the west of the Town are the Harlem Line, in the east the New Haven Line reachable in neighboring towns in Fairfield County and for east-west travel HART bus service to Katonah RR Station. Step one is a new bus service from South Salem and Vista to New Canaan and possibly Stamford. |

1. Open Space Preservation: Planning strategies such as clustering, creating pocket parks in developed areas, and encouraging biotic corridors in less densely populated areas

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| My priority has been trying to manage the 700 plus acres of preserves which the Town owns. Adding to this total has not really been a priority granted the 5,738 acres of preserves in the Town which are owned by the County plus the 16 other preserves with trail systems open to the public and owned by non-profits. It is an objective of mine to complete a system of trails which would allow one to walk across the Town but wild life seems to manage it with relative ease granted the spread of the coyote and bear populations plus our own kangaroo!  Cluster development has been allowed for many years. The Town Board approved a new such development in May bending the rules to accommodate existing stone walls and asking the Planning Board to require trails in the resulting open space preserve on which the Westchester Land Trust would hold an easement. |

1. Natural Resource Protection: Comprehensively managing and protecting regional natural resources (i.e., air, water and land)

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| 100% of Lewisboro drains directly into reservoirs serving New York City, Norwalk and Stamford. The 70% within the East of Hudson Watershed is mainly in the Cross River Filtration Avoidance Determination Basin where the MS4 requirements are especially strict. |

1. Energy: Achieving energy efficiency in residential and commercial settings, in existing and new buildings, and with cutting-edge technology and the smarter use of older technology

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| The Lewisboro-Pound Ridge Coalition was selected by Solarize Westchester for a time limited campaign to encourage commercial and residential solar power installations at a significant discount.  In addition Energize provides incentives to commercial and non-profit properties to improve energy efficiency. |

1. Farms and Local Food: Managing development and providing access to healthy, fresh foods

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| Currently we have two “Farm to Market” operations in Lewisboro. My hope is that we will soon have a third and I have been working to try to gain the owner the AG. District designation he needs to be successful. Granted that we only have three supermarkets, the number of farm to market operations should soon exceed the number of stores. |