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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: Richard B. Lyman  
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**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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| **The hallmark of my tenure on the Town Board (10 years as a Councilman and now 4 as Town Supervisor) has been one of leadership and accomplishment rather than mere rhetorical “support” for initiatives. This has been done through a melding of my professional career as a property manager with my role as a community leader. By constantly searching for better methods and products in my private sector position, I have been able to successfully introduce many of these discoveries to the Town as well as utilize my particular management skill set in implementing many of them. All of these accomplishments relate directly in one or more ways to the questions posed, and I take great pride in the level of leadership and hands on work that I have performed over the years in moving things forward and getting them done. As a general listing, for which I will provide more specifics where appropriate, they are:**  **1) In adopting a resolution for the closing of Indian Point, I insisted upon Pound Ridge participating in an alternative energy program (wind)to make up for the loss.**  **2) Helped author and adopt a Steep Slopes Ordinance.**  **3) Helped author and adopt an ordinance strictly banning the trapping of animals for fur.**  **4) Worked with the Conservation Board on the revisions and re-write of the Town’s Tree Protection Ordinance.**  **5) Led the design and construction of a pedestrian footbridge, replacing an existing failed structure and reopening the path. The bridge, at over 95 feet in length, spanned the entire water course while keeping the foundations away from the water’s edge, eliminating any disturbance to the stream.**  **6) Introduced to the Town (and its design engineers) the product Flexi-Pave (a mix of polymers and re-cycled truck tires) which was subsequently used in the construction of a new walkway, solving storm water management issues with a sustainable product. The use of the material earned the project an ACEC Platinum Award (the Council’s highest) besting many other much larger and more expensive projects.**  **7) Led the design and reconstruction of the Pound Ridge Town Park Pool House, incorporating modern water and energy saving features such as photo electric cell operated flush and water dispensing fixtures, instant hot tankless water heater, energy saving lighting, etc. Also on this project I introduced to the Town a product called VAST Pavers, a synthetic brick made from recycled tires that replaced a code deficient gravel patio area with a product that both treats and controls storm water.**  **8) Led the construction of the Town Recycling facility. I continue to act as an overseer of the facility operations. Sourced a recycling company and negotiated the contract for Pound Ridge being the first Town in the County (and I believe the State) to recycle plastics one through seven. The RC now also accepts all e-waste including CRTs except batteries and fluorescent light bulbs. The convenience offered by this facility has encouraged our residents to continue their recycling efforts, and even with single stream collection now the norm our facility tonnage numbers continue to grow each year for paper, co-mingled and scrap iron/steel.**  **9) Led the construction of Sach’s Park, a gravel pit reclamation project incorporating the use of Vortechnics Treatment units and wetlands restoration for storm water management, including the supervision of the removal of invasive plant species (both phragmites and Japanese Barberry)from the project area.**  **10) Since its inception, have served on the Westchester County Committee on the Environment Sub-Committee on Septic Systems.**  **11) Co-authored the model ordinance on Septic System Inspections and led the local adoption in furtherance of requirements under MS-4.**  **12) Introduced the concept and spearheaded the initiative to convert five police cars to a dual fuel LPG/gasoline fuel source as a pilot program. The program has been deemed a success both economically and environmentally, with benefits ranging from far cleaner exhaust emissions, a tripling of the time/mileage required between oil changes and, unexpectedly, an actual increase in fuel economy. We are currently investigating a newer technology that would build on the dual fuel platform using the injection of liquid rather than vaporized propane, which is purported to be a simpler and more efficient process.**  **13) Performed an investigation and analysis of alternative road de-icing products, leading to personally authoring and spearheading the adoption of a winter road maintenance plan that eventually became the model for a Westchester County plan. I continue to work with the Highway Supt. in monitoring our salt and de-icer material usage to minimize the amounts used wherever possible. We are currently examining the possibility of completely eliminating the use of sand as a traction material in the hope of preventing any further road sediment accumulations in our ponds, streams and wetlands.**  **14) Physically participate in TIP-PR, a local initiative for the eradication of invasive plant species, attending their educational workshops and, when available, their work parties.**  **15) Both supported the initiative for qualification and led the Town Board in the adoption of a resolution to make the Town of Pound Ridge a Certified Wildlife Habitat.**  **16) Supported the qualifying requirements and led the Town Board in adopting the resolution leading to Pound Ridge being declared a “Tree City”, and have continued in follow up to be re-designated, as is required.**  **17) Supported and led the Town Board in the adoption of a “Complete Streets” resolution, an initiative to make Pound Ridge roads, to the extent practicable, user friendly and safe for all modes of transportation.**  **18) Now serve on the Project Management Team as both the Responsible Local Official and Project Manager in have spearheading the implementation of the Transportation Enhancement Project for Scott’s Corner (our local commercial district), a $1.485 MM reimbursement program to replace streetlights with LED fixtures (also night sky compatible), create safer and more pedestrian friendly sidewalks and crosswalks, traffic calming measures and to the extent allowable create more green public spaces within the commercial district.**  **19) Now serve as a co-chair of a newly formed Scott’s Corner Waste Water Task Force to continue my work in seeking a waste water disposal solution for Scott’s Corner. The end goals are to conduct feasibility studies, identify possible technologies, select the appropriate solution and find the funding necessary to complete the project. The WWTF just recently presented to the Town Board and Community a compilation of baseline usage studies, and is currently waiting for the results of a survey of businesses and residents to determine what volumes of water may need to be treated in working on the technology phase in arriving at possible solutions.**  **20) I worked on the planning coordination of the Moat Family Triangle Rain Garden (a Town owned land parcel) for the Pound Ridge Garden Club and provided the construction management and oversight of the project. Now completed, the project received an award from the Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District last year for its combining of utility with aesthetics in solving a storm water drainage issue caused by runoff from State Highway Route 172.**  **21) Assisted in the re-write and updating of the Town’s Master Plan (receiving credit as a co-author along with many others).**  **22) Supported the Home Energy Efficiency Audit Program, a joint effort of Bedford 2020 and the Pound Ridge Energy Action Committee. To date the program has over 40 residents who had both the assessments performed and the improvements completed. (This has resulted in a estimated $75K/year total energy savings, and the equivalent of removing 13 cars from the highway permanently.)**  **23) Supported and assisted in the successful competitive application to Sustainable Westchester jointly with the Town of Lewisboro in promoting residential (and now commercial) solar installations in both communities.** |

**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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| Pound Ridge is 23.5 square miles of very low-density development that is completely devoid of any centralized potable and waste water infrastructure, as well as a having total lack of mass transportation. Our isolation and extreme topographical limitations simply make any form of construction, even on our oversized building lots, very challenging. That said, we continue to promote best management practices at the planning and zoning level to ensure that whatever is built has a minimal negative environmental impact. We recently passed a local ordinance making the installation of solar arrays a very simple process in order to encourage new solar arrays where feasible. (Feasibility plays an important role in a heavily forested community!) |  |

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

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| I continue to be a strong supporter of TIP-PR (The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge) that was formed by volunteers to educate the public about invasive plant species and to work to eradicate those that we can. This has resulted in vine cutting work parties on Town owned properties to lessen the negative effects of Oriental Bittersweet, as well as work parties to cut Japanese Stilt Grass before it has a chance to go to seed. A stand of Japanese Aralia was removed from the property upon which the Town Offices are located, and this year that area will be re-planted with native plant species. In conjunction with the above, TIP-PR also sends out teams to individual private properties (by invitation of the owner) to look for invasive plants and suggest methods for their removal.  The Town Board recently unanimously endorsed the use of goats to eradicate a stand of Japanese Knot Weed that is next our Town soccer field. This will be a three year project managed by our Conservation Board and TIP-PR that is entirely privately funded, and if contract negotiations are successful Pound Ridge will be the first Town in our area to utilize this method. (At the time of this writing, contract negotiations are ongoing. Price is not an issue however some of the terms proposed by the vendor are proving to be problematic. We remain confident the terms can be worked out to the satisfaction of the Town Board.) |  |

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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| Pound Ridge has no buildings that use either #4 or #6 oil, nor do we have any natural gas service. We continue very strongly advocating home energy audits through our Energy Action Committee to promote energy conservation through the Energize NY program. This has resulted in 40 some odd homes instituting insulation and ventilation retrofits along with some heating unit replacements (some to propane from #2 oil and some to just higher efficiency units).  As previously mentioned, the conversion of our police fleet to primarily dual fuel LPG has also contributed to cleaner air. As newer cars are added to our municipal fleet we will also be examining the use of hybrids where practical. |

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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| Because we are so remote and small Pound Ridge is not a “destination” for shopping, and traffic to our commercial area is relatively sparse and mostly locally oriented. While we have had a couple of inquiries in regard to charging station installations, in the end they were never followed through by the installers—apparently for lack of a viable economic return. This may change as EV and battery technology improves, and is certainly not something we would discourage. |

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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| Covered also in Point #4, Pound Ridge very strongly promoted the Energize NY program to help reduce energy costs through gains in building efficiencies in residential structures. This proved to be quite successful. Pound Ridge is also one of the originating community members of the Energy Improvement Corp. that provides low interest loans to businesses and non-profits to make energy efficiency related improvements to their buildings and paid back through P.A.C.E. financing (Property Assessed Clean Energy).  Pound Ridge also teamed with the Town of Lewisboro in making an application in a competition sponsored by Sustainable Westchester for a program to provide discounted solar array installations. This resulted in a winning application and those residents signing up have been able to make installations, through discounts provided by the vetted contractor (Apex Solar), NYSERDA grants and federal tax credits, at a cost of about $.30 on the dollar. This program has also been highly successful, and was recently expanded to include commercial applications. |

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

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| Pound Ridge was one of the first towns in the area to adopt the Complete Streets Initiative requiring all new development plans to adhere to the principles of inclusiveness for all modes of transportation. |

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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| Pound Ridge unfortunately is not served by any form of mass transit. In a response to the affordable housing issue, we changed our zoning to create higher density allowances around our one small shopping area, as well as to expedite the application process. We continue working on the waste water issue in hope that it will provide yet more opportunity for this area. |

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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| Pound Ridge was one of the first Towns in the area to embrace cluster zoning and to add concepts gleaned from Michael Klemens’s Biotic Corridor Study into our Land Use Regulations.  Our Open Space Committee (upon which I serve) is currently working on two possible acquisitions (funded by our Open Space Referendum) that would preserve large tracts of approximately 100 acres each. If successful, both acquisitions would also then link existing isolated preserves with larger neighboring preserves through becoming a natural land bridge. |

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

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| Pound Ridge remains active in the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee, East of Hudson Watershed Corporation and Sustainable Westchester. We have partnered with both the Westchester Land Trust and Mianus River Gorge in preserving land parcels. |

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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| Covered earlier, Pound Ridge was one of the first firms to join with the Energy Improvement Corp. The TEP project is focused on new LED Streetlight.s Our Town building facilities are now almost 100% on LED and CFL lighting, and we recently replaced an aging boiler in the Town Offices with a new high efficiency unit, and a concerted effort is being made in encouraging our employees to conserve both energy and water whenever possible. As described earlier, we continue to promote solar installations. |

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

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| We encouraged the establishment of a local farmer’s market, which recently closed. However, our local market, in response to demand, is now focused on providing as much locally grown produce and products as is available during the seasons. |