

Susquehanna *SIERRAN* December 2020



Founded 1892

– *Election Edition* –

EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT THE PLANET

2020 Candidates Endorsed by Susquehanna Group

– Allan Hochberg

US Representative, NY 22nd	Anthony Brindisi** TBD
NY Assembly District 123	Donna Lupardo*** WIN
Broome County Executive	Jason Garner** WIN
Broome County Legislature Dist. 4	Kim Myers*** WIN
Broome County Legislature Dist. 5	Barbara Mullen* LOSE
Broome County Legislature Dist. 6	Teresa Farrell* LOSE
Broome County Legislature Dist. 7	Matt Wahila* LOSE
Broome County Legislature Dist. 8	Jason Shaw*** WIN
Broome County Legislature Dist. 11	Suzy Ryan*** WIN
Broome County Legislature Dist. 12	Karen Beebe* WIN
Broome County Legislature Dist. 14	Mary Kaminsky*** WIN
Town of Union Council	Lori Wahila* WIN

* Non-incumbent in contested race
** Incumbent in contested race
*** Incumbent in non-contested race

82% of Voters Support Transition to 100% Clean Energy

– Valdi Weiderpass

Yale's Climate Nexus program and George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication polled 2047 registered voters and on October 27, 2020 released findings:

- 82% support the statement: "The primary goal of U.S energy policy should be achieving 100% clean energy." 49% strongly agreed. 33% somewhat agreed.
- 71% support Congressional legislation "that would set the goal of achieving a 100% clean economy (eliminating fossil fuel emissions from the transportation, electricity, buildings, industry, and agricultural sectors) in the United States by the year 2050." 40% registered strong support. 31% somewhat supported.
- 71% supported "requiring electric utility companies in the United States to generate 100% of their electricity from renewable sources, like wind and solar, by the year 2035." 39% strongly supported. 32% somewhat supported
- 62% said they would be more likely to (44%), or would only (18%), vote for a candidate who supports "multi-trillion-dollar federal economic stimulus that prioritizes investments in clean energy infrastructure."

Source: <https://www.ecowatch.com/clean-energy-us-election-2648530393.html?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1>

The report indicated a margin of error of 2.2%. Similarly, Pew Research recently found that 68% of registered voters consider climate change a "very important" or "somewhat" important issue.

Amid the noise of the November election, many candidates missed shifts in voter sentiment toward action to prevent the worst of climate change. There is no longer a technical, economic or even political reason to delay saving a habitable climate. Please contact your elected officials to ask for urgent climate action.

ANNUAL ELECTION

Executive Committee and Bylaw Amendments

Group bylaws require annual elections to the Executive Committee, which has 9 members serving 2-year terms. This year we elect 4. Statements by candidates appear below. The Executive Committee also proposes and urges passage of bylaw amendments which will permit electronic as well as printed distribution of material for future elections. **Complete the ballot on page 3 and mail it by January 15, 2021** to Susquehanna Group, PO Box 572, Endicott, NY 13760

Karen Boba:

I have been interested in nature and our environment since I was young. It was an interest fueled by my family in the form of hikes, nature walks and trips to many national parks. I have been a member of Sierra Club for many years but it is only in the last few that I have become active, first attending general meetings and then becoming a member of the Executive Committee and recording secretary of the Susquehanna Group. As a parent and grandparent my top priority is Climate Change. But my contribution to slowing climate change as an individual is negligible. It is only through group action at the local, state and national level that we may be able to turn the tide before it is too late. I believe that the Sierra Club is committed to Climate Change action and has the experience, funds, and dedication to make a difference.

Chris Harasta:

I became involved with environmentalism four years ago, this interest being sparked by the results of a certain election. I spent the first of those years learning about local groups and changing my lifestyle to match what I believed in. After I got involved with the SG I organized a garbage cleanup, two events teaching kids how to identify healthy streams, and a bird walk. Many of my accomplishments are through my career in dining services, where I make frequent operational changes to reduce waste and purchase sustainably. I am currently working on a project to replace street trees in Endicott that were killed by the Emerald Ash Borer. I have recently joined NEST, where we are working to improve county zero-waste initiatives. Once we can meet in person again, I hope to bring my hobby of foraging wild foods to the table and host a Wild Foods Feast fund-raiser.

Scott Lauffer:

I have long been an active outdoors person, and embraced the explore and enjoy aspect of my relationship to the planet. It was sometime in the 1990's that I became more woke to the importance of the third part of Sierra Club's mission: to protect the planet. My journey with the Susquehanna Group has been rewarding. I strive to have John Muir's spiritual influence in me. I know that there are also practical actions needed to improve our environment. We live in a throw away society that values consumerism and is too often disconnected from nature. There are local issues needing attention, whether they be expanding bike paths, renewable energy projects, plastic bag use, recycling, supporting candidates that care about the environment or Climate Change and it's impact, to name a few. I think it's important that we stay on top of these and promote a cleaner and safer environment.

JoAnn Lettis:

I am seeking reelection to the Executive Committee for another two years. My love of the outdoor drew me to join Sierra Club. My family moved to this area fifteen years ago from Long Island to be close to family. My husband and I owned a Wild Bird Center franchise store in Stony Brook for seven years. We led weekly bird walks for the community. I was very active with Four Harbors Audubon Society and was their President for two years. It is wonderful to be a part of an organization that cares about our local environment. A year ago I took on the position of Treasurer. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments – Proposed new language in **bold**. Deletions indicated by *italic strike-through*.

4.1 Annual Election. An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. This election and any special elections shall be conducted by secret ~~written~~ ballot ~~mailed~~ **distributed** to all Group members of record at least four weeks before the closing date of the election....The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for appointing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), production of eligible voter lists, receipt of names for consideration by NomCom, receipt of ballot issue petitions, the NomCom report of names of nominees, receipt of candidate petitions, appointment of Election Committee, preparation and distribution dates for ballots allowing at least four weeks for return of the ballots, receipt of returned ballots, and the date, time and place for counting ballots. The ExCom shall ~~provide written~~ **distribute** notice of this schedule and of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Group members.

8.2 Amendment. These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by a two-thirds vote of the Group ExCom and a two-thirds vote of all ~~mail~~ ballots cast in an Annual or Special Election.

BALLOT

ExCom Members & Amendment

Indicate your votes and mail this ballot to
Susquehanna Group, PO Box 572, Endicott
NY 13760 by 1/15/2021.

- ___ Karen Boba
- ___ Chris Harasta
- ___ Scott Lauffer
- ___ Joann Lettis

AYE NAY

___ ___ Bylaw 4.1 & 8.2 Amendments



Susquehanna Group

(All of Broome, & most of Chenango,
Delaware, Otsego, Tioga Counties)

- Chair *Scott Lauffer 607-341-3746
 - Vice Chair *Valdi Weiderpass
 - Secretary *Karen Boba
 - Treasurer *Joan Lettis
 - Conservation Co-Chairs *Douglas Gausman
 - *Mary Cronk
 - Political Chair *Allan Hochberg
 - Chapter Delegate *Jim Taft
 - Alt. Chapter Delegate *Joann Lettis
 - Newsletter Editor *Jim Taft
 - Membership Chair *Chris Harasta
 - Outings Chair *Chris Harasta
 - Webmaster *Chris Harasta
- * ExCom Member



Medallion designed by landscape
architect Michael Haas emplaced at
Confluence Park, Binghamton.

COMING EVENTS

Dear Reader – Club meetings during the pandemic continue online. To join any Coming Event use a Zoom app.

Jan 19, 2021 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 Presenting Lynda Spickard award to Adam Flint, Director of Clean Energy Programs at Networking for a Sustainable Tomorrow (NEST) for tireless efforts to advance energy reform at the local and state levels. Adam will then report on important aspects of this work.

Feb 12, 2021 Tom Neilson *Online* Concert Information will be posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/susquehanna>, and distributed to members for whom we have email addresses.

Feb 16, 2021 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 Chris Stanton, Northland Power Project Development Manager will discuss the Bluestone Wind project in Towns of Sanford and Windsor, Broome County.

Mar 16, 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3298 David Nicosia, National Weather Service (NOAA) Meteorologist will discuss bird migrations, and bird adaptations to climate and land-use changes.

April 20, 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 Christopher Audette, Executive Director of Waterman Conservation Center, will discuss his Peace Corps experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa.

May 18, 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 Roy Hopke, Consulting Forester, will speak on how our forests are transitioning during climate change.

2020 (a tough year) in Review – Scott Lauffer

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic Susquehanna Group canceled in-person events beginning in March. In September, monthly meetings resumed on Zoom. The change permits easier participation for distant members in our 5-county area.

Also in 2020 Group leaders and members:

- attended NYDOT's 414 Greenway public meeting.
- maintained and improved the Pollinator Garden at Binghamton's Confluence Park. Thank you to master gardener Sarah Hodder, Mark Couchman and all the volunteers.
- co-sponsored with VERSE (Vestal Residents for Safe Energy) a (pre-pandemic) public meeting on climate change.
- solicited, with Waterman Conservation Center, donations to treat the invasive woolly adelgid infestation of significant hemlock stands at the IBM Glen.
- hosted an online meet-the-candidates night. Local candidates endorsed by Susquehanna Group spoke about their positions and plans concerning the environment.
- researched and participated in proposed local renewable energy projects: (1) Lithium-ion Battery Recycling plant in Endicott, (2) Bluestone Wind Project in Towns of Sanford and Windsor, Broome County.

TAKE HEED — The *Susquehanna Sierran* publishes 4 times per year. Printing and mailing for over 1000 local members draws heavily on financial reserves. Therefore members are notified by email when the *Sierran*, except for December issues, is posted on the Group website (allowing color & web links). So! For email delivery please take a moment and send your email address to membership.services@sierraclub.org



Susquehanna Group
PO Box 572
Endicott NY 13760

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