2015 Sustainable Saratoga Candidate Survey

CANDIDATE NAME: Michele Madigan

CANDIDATE FOR (OFFICE): Commissioner of Finance

Question #1: What sustainability initiatives or efforts have you implemented or advanced as an elected official or private citizen?

- I am spearheading 2MW Solar Array on the Weible Ave. Landfill. Phase 1 will allow the city to use clean energy in relation to our utilities; Phase 2 includes Community Access to the Spa Solar Park.

- Initiated and implemented annual funding in the city budget to ensure success of the City's Master Tree Plan

- I proposed revisions to the Solar Ordinance to support the sustainability of our urban core. More needs to be done on the Solar Ordinance to sustain our tree efforts throughout the City.

- I am investigating a Hydro-electric project for the City with Gravity Renewables and MEGA.

- Supported Climate Smart Communities as a city program.

Question #2: What, if anything, would you propose to do locally to confront climate change?

- See my answers to the above questions #1 – I've already been working to on behalf of the city to start using renewable energy sources (Solar and Hydro). Once these are fully implemented for the City my plan is to make these resources available to city residents and businesses.

- I supported, with my vote, to become a member of Climate Smart Communities. I have supported the Green Belt Trail, Geyser Crest Trail and other similar projects throughout the city.

- I implemented the use of a Parking App (ParkMe) to help people navigate to city owned parking lots. This cuts down on traffic congestion in the city and pollution.

Question #3: The City Council recently adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, which embodies and continues the "City in the Country" vision for Saratoga Springs. According to the Comprehensive Plan: "This concept reflects a city with an intensively developed urban core and an economically vibrant central business district, with well-defined urban edges and an outlying area of rural character, comprised of agriculture, open lands, natural and diverse environmental resources, and low density development."

Do you support the "City in the Country" vision?

Yes, I support the "City in the Country." I voted against PUDs and Resort Overlays in the City's Greenbelt or Conservation Development District.

Do you believe that sustainable economic growth can be achieved through this vision?

Yes, I believe growth can be achieved through this vision.

Do you think the "City in the Country" vision should be altered? If so, how?

I see no need to alter the "City in the Country" vision.

Question #4: What comments do you have about the following priority issues for Sustainable Saratoga?

Affordable housing:

I have a record of championing the development of Affordable Housing in our City. I set aside 2 parcels for a project with Habitat for Humanity and Saratoga Builders.

I have stated publically that Affordable Housing issues will be a top priority for me in the coming years.

Managing downtown parking:

I've been working hard for the last 3 years on finding solutions for downtown parking. I implemented a parking app to help visitors find parking easily and cut down on congestion and pollution (see above).

Waste management, including plastic bag reduction:

Promoting renewable energy:

Spa Solar Park, Hydro-electric power initiative (see above).

Expanding the city's urban forest, and increasing green infrastructure:

Ensure annual funding via City budget for Master Tree Plan.

Question #5: If elected, what types of sustainability efforts (other than those listed above) would you promote or emphasize?

- I do believe the above pretty much covers my efforts on the Sustainability front. However, I am working on a project to ensure all residents and businesses have access to high quality internet (broadband/fiber infrastructure). Access to the Internet is a model much like utilities such as Water and Sewer. The city needs a sustainable plan for all stakeholders in the city (the City, the schools, public library, hospital and Skidmore college.)