



SAUGUS ACTION VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SAVE)

SAVE asked candidates for Board of Selectmen to provide a brief statement addressing their environmental vision for our Town. The following was submitted:

{Note: Candidates responses are listed alphabetically, by candidates' last name}

Paul H. Allan:

Saugus is fortunate to have many resources available to our town. One of the most important issues I believe we have is the knowledge and appreciations of these valuable assets have not been fully realized.

Natural Resources

My vision would be to create more opportunities for our residents to access these areas utilizing natural environmental methods to create walking and biking paths throughout these areas. I believe this would create more appreciation and would provide a natural education to those using these paths to the abundance of wildlife, plant life, waterways, and ambience that these areas offer.

These paths would also give us a way to access these areas to provide much needed maintenance and clean up. An example of this would be the Saugus River to clean up all the unwanted trash and debris polluting the tributaries that are brought in during the high tides and washes along its banks and wetlands.

I believe the more access we provide to these areas, the more involved the people of Saugus will become. Breakheart Reservation is a perfect example of this vision when access is provided. This area is well enjoyed and highly appreciated by many.

Most importantly, the people who use Breakheart Reservation take great pride in maintaining and preserving this area while taking advantage of all its natural offerings. They provide educational hands on events that teach our citizens the value of our natural resources and how wonderful Mother Nature can be when respected.

Recycling Program

My vision would be to provide more education and enforcement of our Recycling Program.

This is a great program, but it is not being utilized to its fullest potential. We need to educate our citizens to the cost savings this program offers to the Town of Saugus which in turn, is a tax savings for all of us.

And the most important aspect of the recycling program would be more natural resources and fewer landfills for future generations.

We are going to need more enforcement of this program and not allow this program to be optional. I find it almost impossible that some households have no recycling products during the weekly trash pickup.

With many residents already embracing the Recycling Program, it proves that we can accomplish our goals.

Stephen L. Castinetti:

Today, Saugus faces an opportunity to explore and utilize numerous forms of non-fossil fuel resources to provide safer, more cost-efficient and eco-friendly types of energy to power our town and provide our citizens with better alternatives to natural gas, oil and electricity. We see more and more homes in Saugus installing solar panels on their roofs on a daily basis. Wind is being tested in Rumney Marsh. Hybrid vehicles are becoming more popular every year. And ways to reduce our carbon footprint are being looked at more seriously than ever before.

But are we too late? Has Global Warming reared its ugly head here in our town? It appears that that is the case. The recent redrawing of the flood plain maps in the United States has had a significant impact on many of our Saugus homeowners. Homes that have never been in flood plains are now finding themselves included in the new maps. The impact is far reaching and devastating for many. Reduced home values limit a homeowner's ability to sell his or her property. Increased insurance premiums put coverage out of reach for many limiting their ability to purchase, refinance or secure a mortgage. And with homes being the greatest portion of many people's retirement plans, many are finding that retirement is now out of the question.

In addition, recycling must be made easier for our residents. Although I have been recycling for years, I still see many of my neighbors who can't be bothered separating their trash and keeping recyclables apart from rubbish and garbage. Education, not only of our children, but of our adults as well, is critical if we are to improve our recycling habits and results, further reducing our carbon footprint.

Finally, one type of pollution that is not commonly mentioned is that of noise. Approximately one month ago, I had several calls from residents on Pevwell Drive regarding noise coming from the RESCO plant. Since I was very close, I drove to the area, met with several residents and experienced the situation first hand. The noise coming from the plant was deafening and was far worse than anything that I had expected to hear. I likened it to standing on a runway at Logan Airport and standing behind a jet as it was attempting to take off. For the people of East Saugus, although not naturally produced, this form of pollution that many of us cannot even imagine is having a dramatic impact on their lives. And although this may be a stretch from the usual environmental concerns in general, it certainly is environmentally wrong in East Saugus.

In conclusion, we have more options today than ever to improve our environment. It is time that we take them seriously and make the changes in our Town that will have the greatest impact on our health, welfare and overall well-being. Are we too late for Saugus? Let us hope not!

Maureen P. Dever:

My environmental vision for the Town of Saugus is one of inclusion and engagement of the residents who call Saugus home. It is a vision based on diversity of thoughts, ideas and the voices of many, not just a few!

The strength of Saugus lies in its neighborhoods and in its schools and through the adoption of Smart Growth concepts Involving citizens and public officials in the process to improve municipal zoning and by-laws fosters a discussion of where we are and where we want to go and promotes collaboration and cooperation.

Creating a Town Environmental Master plan allows Saugus to plan for the future while preserving and protecting its past.

A Town Environmental Master Plan should include the promotion and protection of our most valued natural assets. Prankers Pond, Breakhart Reservation, the Saugus River and the Rumney Marsh are areas of serenity and beauty to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

As I look to surrounding communities I see Victorian street lighting, hanging plants and American flags proudly displayed that offer a sense of welcoming and pride. Benches dot the city and town squares and seems to say, sit awhile and enjoy what we have to offer!

Saugus could easily adopt this simple but important approach to encouraging us all to sit awhile and enjoy this wonderful community!

My environmental vision is one that includes a sense of confidence that there will never be an expansion of the Wheelabrator Trash to Energy Plant. The ash landfill will someday be fully capped and that all safety upgrades will occur to protect the residents from exposure to toxic elements that enter the atmosphere.

Educating and promoting increased recycling in our community, adopting the core values of the Solid Waste Master Plan that calls for a path to zero waste in the future. Using diverse strategy that will increase commercial and residential recycling and seek additional funding to support recycling and re-use efforts.

Working closely with the Economic Development Coordinator a Town Environmental Master Plan would include obtaining grants that would promote renewable energy heating and cooling projects in municipal buildings and schools.

Grants are available to maintain our beautiful new rail trail from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Metropolitan Planning Council promotes and supports numerous programs that help communities create green initiatives through planning and implementing clean energy projects

My environmental vision for Saugus is one that embraces the community in planning for the future! I am convinced together we can accomplish a great deal!

Ellen L. Faiella:

My environmental vision for Saugus would be one where we further promote the preservation and use of the many treasures our town has to offer: Pranker's Pond, Breakheart Reservation, Lobsterman Landing, just to name a few.

I would like to work with the Tree Committee to improve our parks and playgrounds. My vision would include the planting of shade trees in appropriate locations while also improving the opportunities and equipment afforded to the residents of Saugus. Leisure activity for families within our community will promote healthy living.

Cliftdale Square and Saugus Center, along with the streets in and around them, needs to be addressed in the same fashion. Let's put the plantings back up on the street lights, perhaps eventually replacing those lights with more aesthetically pleasing ones, plant trees where there is a need. In these areas I would stress the need to work in collaboration with area residents, local businesses, the Tree Committee, Sidewalk Committee and Economic Developer in order to achieve success.

These particular topics have been raised many times by the folks in Saugus and we need to listen to what their thoughts and visions for Saugus are. It saddens me that folks look longingly at surrounding communities wishing the offerings in those locations were available in Saugus.

Certainly there are many environmental issues we will be addressing but I believe these improvements to Saugus will enhance the quality of life for all who live and work here.

Joshua Jake Greenstein:

Environmental Vision Statement not submitted.

Stephen M. Horlick:

To continue what I have over the past 10 years:

- To maintain the increased monitoring at Resco, along with having the Charm Disposal Program located at the DPW, and the Bristow Street Environmental Park become a reality as part of the AG's Resco settlement to Saugus.
- Not supporting Resco's third burner or expansion of the ash landfill through motions of the Board of Selectmen, and voting to support letters sent to the State Delegation and the DEP.
- Continuing the upgrade of our sewer system, which eliminates raw sewage from entering the environment.
- Increase Saugus' brook cleaning program, and brush cutting program.
- Increase Saugus' Hazardous Waste recycling programs and increased education on our weekly recycle program to the community and schools, which decreases the amount of trash that is sent to Resco and saves the taxpayers money.
- Support transfer of land to Saugus and the Conservation Commission along with the Tree Committee's efforts to replace and plant additional trees throughout Saugus.

These are some of the ways that I have supported and will continue to support a cleaner environment for Saugus.

Ballot Position # 3

Julie Ann Mitchell:

I am committed to protecting the natural resources necessary for the survival of our ecosystem. By preserving the environment and working to eliminate pollution, we are contributing to sustaining a healthy planet. Simple solutions like decreasing trash and increasing recycling can improve the physical condition and well being of our residents. Careful planning for the utilization and preservation of our remaining open space is essential. I am committed to protecting our waterways, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and salt marshes.

The Town of Saugus is fortunate to have environmentally concerned groups such as Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment, the Saugus River Watershed Council, the Friends of Breakheart Reservation and the Tree Committee. They have collectively contributed much to the environmentally friendly nature of our town.

The Town must come to terms with many issues having a direct or indirect effect on our environment: the advantages and disadvantages of having a trash to ash facility Route 107, the eventual use or non use of the Curley Property, and the Quarry closure. Issues concerning trash collection and improving recycling must constantly be reviewed. Our streets and roads need to be adequately maintained and cleaned in a timely fashion. Updating and improving our town buildings and facilities should be made with an environmentally friendly outlook, and "going green" concept.

The town's alternative energy committee is exploring the use of wind turbines on Route 107 as a possible source of energy for the future. The open space committee is busy studying maps and collecting information relating to the remaining parcels of land existing in Saugus today. The benefit of people working together is a powerful force for the survival of generations.

The Town of Saugus has 3.5 miles of Route 1 running through it increasing pollution in the air, land, and water. The volume of commercial trucks using this highway is a concern as was evident in the recent accident at the Essex Street overpass. The state needs to be more vigilant in monitoring and improving the inherent problems of this roadway and the town needs to be more active in advocating for solutions.

Protecting the town's 11 miles of land and .8 miles of water is a necessary and important task. I am committed to preserving the natural environment of Saugus for future generations. I will listen to all points of view on environmental issues and make sound judgments based on all the facts.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children".
Native American Proverb

Debra C. Panetta:

My environmental vision has been shaped by nearly three decades of involvement in the environmental affairs of Saugus. I am currently the President of the Saugus River Watershed Council, past-President of SAVE, and a 12 year past member of the Tree Committee. I am proud that I have been endorsed by the Sierra Club for this current election.

My vision for Saugus includes a clean, healthy and attractive environment. I believe that the air we breathe, the space we share, the energy we consume, the water we protect are all critical aspects of my vision. Most important in my vision is the personal belief that as a Selectman, my actions will not result in environmental degradation.

I have not, nor will not allow for any proposal or project that will result in direct or eventual environmental harm. I have not, nor will not support any project for a Saugus neighborhood that I would not want in my own neighborhood. I believe a healthy environment equals a healthy Saugus. I believe my actions as a sitting Selectman are consistent with my belief that we should do everything we can to protect our valuable natural resources to ensure a healthy Saugus for future generations.

Natural areas such as Rumney Marsh, Pranker's Pond, the Saugus River, and Breakheart Reservation help promote and preserve healthy neighborhoods, provide opportunities for recreation, and are an important part of our town's economy. While I support economic development, I believe that such economic development must balance the protection of our valuable natural resources with opportunities for quality growth and appropriate redevelopment.

The people of Saugus know my position on RESCO. They know I will not support any expansion of the RESCO facility. When I learned that RESCO is considering expanding its ash residue landfill, I wrote a policy regarding waste to energy, ash disposal, and solid waste facilities in Saugus that was presented to and approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen. This detailed policy states that the Town of Saugus would encourage and support that which would result in a net decrease in air emissions and ash disposal.

The policy further states that Saugus is opposed to any additional forms of combustion of solid waste that would yield additional air and ash emissions and that we supported existing dates for ash landfill closure established by the Commonwealth. Upon adoption, this policy was sent to appropriate elected and appointed state officials.

I have also supported the Town Manager's efforts to have RESCO acknowledge that as a host community we deserved to be treated better than just a "paying customer." As a result of this approach, the Manager was able to negotiate a tipping rate of \$62 per ton compared to the

previous charge of \$77. This has resulted in Saugus saving \$171,000.00 in the first year, money that can now be used to maintain the full services that our community has come to expect and enjoy.

I would like to see more 'green' town buildings in Saugus. It was a positive measure that the Belmonte is now a 'green' school. I have voted to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate with Tangent Energy Solutions, Inc. who will be proposing solar panels for several town buildings as well as the former Main Street landfill. I believe in alternative forms of energy that have been proven to not negatively impact public health.

I was an early supporter of the Bike to the Sea rail trail. This project has shown all of Saugus the vast potential we have with our undiscovered open spaces. That is why I will only support a capital improvement plan that includes upgrading our parks and recreation facilities. Saugonians shouldn't have to go out of town to use a nice, clean playground for their children. I should also note that I have supported the Manager's proposal to have part of the RESCO environmental suit settlement funds be used for a new park at the Bristow Street Playground. This is something that should be completed in 2014.

I believe Saugus can realize an increase in recycling. Currently, our recycling rate is in the 25% range. If we include the drop-off days, that percentage increases to about 30%. With our new CHARM center (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) which will be located at the Main Street landfill, we will be able to increase recycling while saving the taxpayers money. There will be more accessible recycling, keeping items out of the incineration process. Not only is this a first for Saugus, but it is a first for Massachusetts. Keeping hazardous materials out of the waste stream is better for the environment and our public health, and it will be more efficient and convenient than having scheduled "hazardous waste" drop off days.

Clean water is of the utmost importance. I have supported the development of a water improvement program based on objective criteria. This program, now being developed by Camp Dresser & McKee, will allow Saugus to target water improvements logically and systematically over the next decade.

Saugus remains a party to an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the DEP due to a prior administration dumping raw sewage into the Saugus River. Originally estimated to cost the taxpayers \$27M, I am pleased that this effort is coming in under budget. That is why as a Selectman/ Sewer Commissioner, I will continue to apply the regulations and rules designed to protect this investment in our sewer system as well as the environment and public health consistently and fairly. I have not and will not allow politics or favoritism to influence how I apply these rules.

I support Smart Growth in our approach to land use. Smart Growth for Saugus means building and re-building within the geographical and historical texture of Saugus. With proper planning, including early engagement of all stakeholders, Saugus can develop zoning overlays and proposals that protect and enhance the environment, the economy, and promote fair and quality housing opportunities.

I believe the creation of the Historic Mill Overlay District is an important initiative for Saugus where we are preserving historical buildings while allowing for mixed-use. This has involved careful planning and multiple iterations based on stakeholder feedback. I supported the hiring of a highly qualified Economic Development Director who has broad experience that is immediately serving to benefit Saugus. His experience has helped this proposal to ensure public access to the Saugus River; opportunity for shared parking arrangements; and minimum and maximum parking requirements so that we don't see large tracks of land developed to parking that is never used. Forward thinking for electric charging stations for electric vehicles within the Historic Mills District is just one example where Saugus can be develop zoning proposal that meet today's expectations as well as tomorrow's future needs.

I supported the reconstruction of Lincoln Avenue with concrete sidewalks, granite curbs, and a strip of green space. High quality design that includes a grass strip between the sidewalk and granite curbing is not only aesthetically appropriate but will help capture and absorb rain water run-off

before it enters in the street. Lincoln Avenue is a major gateway to and from Saugus. Shouldn't it have the appearance that the residents of Saugus expect and deserve?

I support the capital improvement project, which looks at our capital exposure to bring safe, environmentally friendly, and energy efficiencies for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Saugus has applied to be a green community which would be beneficial when applying for grants (e.g., to replace boilers). This administration has just had our energy bills evaluated where we were able to find ways to reduce energy costs while saving Saugus taxpayers money.

My goal is to always do the right thing for the environment while extending the taxpayers' dollars. While I am a Saugus Selectman, our environment will be an area of focus. A thoughtful and protective approach to our environment is good for homeowners, neighborhoods, and businesses. Protecting and enriching our environment does not have to be radical or painful. It requires skilled staff, innovative ideas, and leaders who have vision. I believe my record proves I have that vision.

Michael J. Serino:

I believe the residents in Saugus, thanks in part to SAVE, are more aware of the environmental issues we face as a society today. Environmental visions I would like to see for our Town are:

- Expanded tree planting program
- Charm center at the Town's compost site
- Solar panels located at the DPW
- No expansion of the RESCO facility
- The closing of the toxic ash landfill on Rumney Marsh
- Street sweeping twice a year
- Ongoing water and sewer rehabilitation program
- Environmental education programs in our public schools
- Increased open space/recreational facilities such as the newly constructed Rail-Trail

Gary Sund:

Environmental Vision Statement not submitted.