# SCLogo_VertWebGreen

# North Carolina Chapter

# Central Piedmont Group

# 2017 SIERRA CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

# CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE

We have attempted to make this environmental questionnaire brief and we are not expecting lengthy answers to our questions. Please answer the questions with as much or as little detail as you feel appropriate, expanding the space for the answer as necessary. **We are requesting that this questionnaire be returned by Friday, October 6th.**

We will not be endorsing candidates in the Huntersville race for Board of Commissioners. Rather, we will distribute the responses directly to our members in Huntersville and other forums to be determined. If you have questions, please contact Sierra Club Political Chair Steve Copulsky at scopulsky@mindspring.com or 704-543-7493. Please e-mail the questionnaire to Steve at that email address.

Candidate Information:

 Name: \_\_Lance Munger\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Questions for candidates for Board of Commissioners - Town of Huntersville**

1. Huntersville is growing rapidly which is challenging the town’s ability to provide a good quality of life. Is the geographic pattern of growth a part of the problem? If so, what should be done differently?

Commissioners need to become better at listening to the planning staff and the citizen planning commission. I want to see the Huntersville 2030 plan revisited and updated to reflect a better overall environmental vision. Additionally, I want to see commissioners enforce a better adherence to the plan once implemented.

1. Several transportation projects are planned for Huntersville. Is the pace for implementation adequate? Please elaborate.

Unfortunately, due to the explosive growth that Huntersville has experienced, the transportation projects can’t happen soon enough. With that said, I think it will a process to determine what works best for our residents and businesses while alleviating our transportation issues.

1. Does Huntersville have sufficient public transportation? How could it be improved?

No, I do agree with the current administration’s effort to expand bus service in Huntersville, but I also believe that additional mass transit options should be pursued. The red line has been an albatross that never seems like it will move forward. I am not in favor in doing another study to determine the viability of the red line until the possibility of an agreement with Norfolk Southern can be achieved. If this is not possible, we will need to determine whether an alternative route can be found.

1. Huntersville has under 3 miles of completed Greenways and only one more on track for completion. Do you support using town resources, including funding, to step up the amount and timing of greenway and sidewalk construction?

This would be a high priority item for me, Huntersville needs to make great strides to become a more walkable community. With the upcoming Mecklenburg County Property Revaluation, there should be an opportunity to fund projects of this nature without the need to pass a tax rate increase.

1. Should developers be rewarded with favorable incentives, including density credits, for including high quality features like mixed uses, using infill sites, affordable housing, pocket parks and attractive street designs?

I am open to this possibility, specifically the development of mixed use areas to attract new businesses and blending affordable housing options into areas with larger single family homes.

1. Do you think Huntersville stream quality is adequate? If no, how should it be addressed?

I don’t feel that I am adequately informed on this issue to comment. It is an area of concern for me that I will need to research further.

1. The mayors of at least a dozen NC cities have joined over 300 other U.S. mayors in pledging to uphold the Paris climate goals. Would you support a resolution to have Huntersville sign the pledge?

Yes.

1. What do you consider to be your best environmental action or achievement?

As a first-time candidate, I have yet to achieve any specific environmental

success, but I am including a list of specific goals below.

Updates to the Huntersville 2030 plan.

1) Environment section 2.3 Tree Preservation - Increase the % range of specimen trees and existing tree canopy from 10-50 to 25-75 and significantly increase the contribution to the tree fund/bank if standards cannot be met.

2) Environment section 4.4 Alternative Energy - Incentivize the use of alternative energy in new and existing developments.

3) Environment section 5.0 Building & Neighborhood Design (LEED) - Create incentive programs for LEED certified buildings.

1. What is the most pressing environmental issue facing Huntersville today?

Out of control growth and the reckless destruction of tree canopy.

**Thank you for completing our Questionnaire!**