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# Opinions

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## Says Waechter is right choice for Lewiston

BY DIANE PERRI ROBERTS

Earlier this year, Sarah Roat Waechter approached me about running for Lewiston Town Board. I was frank with her, and told her it would involve a lot of her time to meet the citizens of Lewiston, tell them her reasons for seeking the office, and listen to their concerns. She did not hesitate, stating that she is all about community service.

Since last-summer and even now, I, along with three or four others, have driven Sarah all over Lewiston to help her meet people at their homes. Armed with voter lists for all political parties and even those voters not affiliated with any party, Sarah has knocked on what is approaching 1,800 doors. I watched her repeatedly spend 15-20 or more minutes at a door, talking with those residents about their concerns, observing them

thanking her for stopping by, and shaking her hand along with a wish for the best of luck, most times with an assurance they will vote for her regardless of their political affiliation.

Countless times, I heard people say to her, "No one else came to my door to talk to me." I know Sarah's reaction to that, because we've talked about it; basically, you cannot know what concerns people have unless you take the time and have the interest to listen to them. And listen she has, as she knocked on those over 1,800 doors. (I know the number, because there are very few of the 2,000 door hangers she ordered that are left.) Sarah is already poised to look into those concerns brought to her attention while going door-to-door!

Sarah is not "just another politician" who will forget the people she

has listened to, and has promised to continue listening to, if voted on to the Town Council. Sarah has a history rich in community service. Many like to use those words, but few actually have the service to back up their words.

Sarah is currently on the Town Planning Board. In the past, Sarah was on the Lew-Port School Board; served on Partners in Education; fostered dogs with Heart of Niagara; helped – and still does – the Salvation Army collect donations at Christmastime; assisted costuming participants in the "Flames through Lewiston"; sang with the Lewiston Choraleers; all while working and raising two daughters.

As you head to vote in the Town Council race, please give thought to which candidate took the time to come by and talk to you and listen to your local concerns, and discuss

how she can work to address them if elected. Then compare that to others on the ballot who chose to send you not one but *two* glossy mailers marked as being paid for by an Albany political party.

It is often said that "signs don't vote." I would add to it that mailers do not listen to or hear your concerns about your community. They do not hear that you are worried about Airbnbs invading your neighborhoods, solar farms taking over large rural areas, and similar purely local issues. Mailers that tell you nothing about what that candidate stands for and what they will do for you and for Lewiston.

Sarah Roat Waechter, in comparison, is "the real deal" when it comes to a Town Council member who has already demonstrated she listens to the residents, and will work for you.

## Calls Waechter 'a fresh voice for the people'

I am writing this as an endorsement for Sarah Waechter for a seat on the Town of Lewiston Board. I have known Sarah for over 10 years. She brings excellent credentials to the board, including a BS in environmental policy and behavior, as well as current position on the Town of Lewiston Planning Board and past positions as president of Partners in Education and a member of the Board of Education for Lewiston-Porter school system. Sarah has also ingrained herself in the community by being part of many charity organizations and events.

Sarah's background in environmental policy

provides a fresh voice for the people in policy and trends and public enterprise to help facilitate public interest and review. Within her presidency of Partners in Education, I have witnessed Sarah's spirit and tenacity in the pursuit of scholarships and charitable events for our youth. Her drive allowed for the gift of thousands of dollars of scholarships for our students. Sarah continued her quest in helping our community and students by accepting a seat on the Board of Education, where she provided invaluable guidance. Privately, Sarah and her family have worked with many organizations throughout the

years, including working alongside myself in helping a local animal shelter by fostering dogs that may otherwise have been euthanized.

Mostly, I endorse Sarah Waechter for a seat on the Town of Lewiston Board because of her genuine compassion and desire to better our district. Her honesty, ability to listen and straightforward, open communication skills with others are attributes not found too often and, for these reasons, I strongly support Sarah Waechter for a position on the Town of Lewiston Board on Nov. 7.

Kathy Passanese

## Jacoby: 'Waechter has demonstrated a compassion for our community that is genuine and productive'

BY JOHN JACOBY

Town of Lewiston Councilman

I am writing this letter in support of Sarah Waechter who is running for the Lewiston Town Board.

As a current member of the board, I have attended Planning Board meetings and observed Sarah's active participation. It is obvious that she has taken the time to prepare for the

meetings and always shows a grasp of the issues at hand. Perhaps most importantly, Sarah frequently cuts to the heart of the matter; and by asking well-thought-out questions, she is able to bring clarification to sometimes complex problems. On more than one occasion, she has brought an otherwise unseen perspective that is a great help to everyone.

Sarah Waechter has demonstrated a compassion for our community that is genuine and productive. Whether it is through her participation on the school board or her presence at numerous Town of Lewiston events, she is always a welcome addition. As a nontraditional student, she sought and earned the education that will enable her to hit the

ground running as a Lewiston Town Board member.

I am excited by the prospect of Sarah joining our Town Board. She will work across party lines to serve the entire community and be one more component of quality local government.

I strongly urge town residents to join me and vote for Sarah Waechter.

## Waechter 'what we need right now'

I am thrilled to offer my endorsement of Sarah Roat Waechter for Lewiston Town Council. I have known and worked with Sarah for many years. Whether lending her efforts to the Town of Lewiston Planning Board, offering insight on community outreach or budgets with Lewiston-Porter Board of Education, or pitching in on game days at the Lew-Port concession stand, Sarah gives 100%

and does it with boundless energy and a smile.

Sarah has so much to offer any board, team or organization lucky enough to have her.

I do want to tell you what she doesn't have, however. Sarah does not have a tolerance for drama or self-aggrandizement. She does not have a negative thing to say about anyone. And she does not have an ulterior agenda or favors

owed to anyone – political, monetary or otherwise. What she has is an honest, earnest, caring and intelligent perspective on the Town of Lewiston. And that's what we need right now.

Please vote for Sarah R. Waechter on line A or line D on your ballot.

Lewiston deserves a woman like Sarah.

Wendy Guild Swearingen

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