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Oct. 5, 2016

East Hills Architectural Review Board
East Hills Village Hall
209 Harbor Hill Rd.
East Hills, NY 11576

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a practicing arborist for over ten years. I was a resident of this Village for about 45 years. I am the owner of Nassau-Suffolk Tree Service, a firm with about two dozen employees. We work throughout Long Island and New York City on residential and commercial properties. .

I was an East Hills resident until last year when I moved with my wife to be closer to our grandchildren. I was appointed to and served on the Village of East Hills' Architectural Review Board, I was the Village's Tree Warden, and I helped write the Village's Tree Protection and Preservation law that was enacted in 2006. My contribution to the law was specifically highlighted by the Mayor, who identified me as a 'prime contributor' in The Roslyn News (attached).

I also hold a BS in Agricultural Science from Cornell University (1962), and I have received additional extensive training in arboriculture in rigorous continuing education seminars from the ISA.

I have regularly inspected properties in East Hills where tree removal and building applications are pending before the East Hills Architectural Review Board (ARB) with environmental advocate Richard Brummel, organizer of the Keep East Hills Green Civic Assoc.

I have testified regularly in writing about the chronic issue of the questionable veracity of alleged tree defects or construction needs in applications to remove trees in the Village, and the rampant and unjustified removal of trees across East Hills based on those claims that has destroyed large portions of the tree canopy and runs diametrically against the letter and spirit of the Tree Law.

I examined the Beech trees at 185 Elm Drive that are proposed to be removed by reason of the presence of cavities. I also looked at some of the other of the twelve trees proposed for removal.

I wish to submit the following findings based on my own expertise and years of experience as described above.

It is important the board understand that the presence of cavities is not in itself an indication that a tree needs to be removed: The cavities are likely home to animals like squirrels and raccoons, and thus critical to supporting local wildlife – a principle of the Village's Tree Protection law which I helped write (Code §186-1(C))¹ – and trees can thrive even with such cavities, depending on their location size and tendency to retain water (a matter that can be remediated by creating a drain hole). Especially at this breeding season it is important for the board to take care not to unwittingly allow the killing of baby squirrels now in the nests.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG WITH
THE TULIP TREE OR THE OAK IN THE
BACK OR THE LONG NEEDLE WHITE PINE
IN LEFT REAR.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE THE BEECH
TREES WITH CAVITIES SHOULD BE CUT
DOWN WITHOUT KNOWING THE DEPTH OF
THE CAVITIES.

THE CAVITIES APPEAR DRY NOT WET.

THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE STAND OF TREES
THAT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EVALUATED

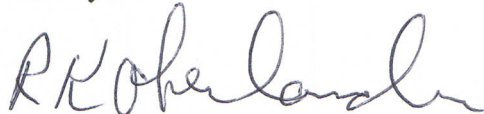
¹ "It is the further intent of the Village to have trees generally continue to stabilize the soil and control water pollution by preventing soil erosion and flooding, absorbing air pollution, providing oxygen, yielding advantageous micro-climatic effects, have intrinsic aesthetic qualities, preserve and enhance property values, offer a natural barrier to noise, provide privacy, and provide a natural habitat for wildlife, and that the removal of trees deprives the residents of the Village of these benefits and disrupts fundamental ecological systems of which trees are an integral part...."

AND SUBJECT TO DETAILED EXAMINATION
BEFORE ANY DECISION.

THE OAK & PINE TO THE LEFT OF THE GARAGE
HAVE NO PROBLEMS.

(ONE BEECH IS CRACKED AT THE BASE, JUSTIFYING REMOVAL).

Thank you.



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News

East Hills Enacts New Tree Law

After a full public hearing and input from community leaders, Mayor Michael R. Koblenz and the board of trustees enacted new reforms aimed at preserving and maintaining the beauty of the community. The law now requires an application and permit before a tree which has a trunk of five inches or greater in diameter (or 18 inches in circumference) at a height of 4 feet above the base of the trunk can be removed. Even when permits are issued, the new law requires for replacement.

The mayor credited Jess Drabkin, chair of the Architectural Review Board, and the members of his committee for helping research, plan and propose the legislation. The members of the Architectural Review Board include Spencer Kams, deputy chair for administration, Bruce Spenadel, deputy chair for architectural review, Dr. Kenneth Crystal, Hilda Yohalem, Sol Mlego, Richard Oberlander, Brett Rosenfeld and Steven Kriger. Mr. Oberlander, a well-known arborist, was singled out by the mayor as one of the prime contributors to the project.

Besides aesthetics, the mayor and board's action was directed at ensuring that trees will continue to stabilize the soil and control water pollution by preventing soil erosion and flooding, absorbing air pollution, providing oxygen, yielding advantageous micro climatic effects, preserve and enhance property values, offer a natural barrier to noise, and provide privacy.

The new law, known as the "Tree and Preservation Act of 2006," sets forth the content of the application which will be used and the documents which are necessary in order to gain a permit.

Formingdale Observer
Floral Park Dispatch
Garden City Life
Glen Cove Record Pilot
Great Neck Record
Hicksville Illustrated News
Levittown Tribune
Manhasset Press
Massapequan Observer
Mineola American
New Hyde Park Illustrated
Oyster Bay Enterprise Pilot
Plainview-Old Bethpage
Port Washington News
Roslyn News
Syosset-Jericho Tribune
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