

Richard Oberlander
Certified Arborist

8-5-13

Spencer Kanis, Chairman and Board Members
East Hills Architectural Review Board
East Hills Village Hall
209 Harbor Hill Rd.
East Hills, NY 11576

Dear Mr. Kanis and Board Members:

I am an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (IAS), the major national accrediting body for tree experts (certification number NY0918A). (I am also a resident of Nassau County and have been for about 45 years.) I have been a practicing arborist for about 10 years, and I am the owner of Nassau-Suffolk Tree Service, a firm with about two dozen employees. We work throughout the North Shore and beyond. I was an appointed member of the Village of East Hills Architectural Review Board and helped write the Village's Tree Preservation law several years ago.

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

I was asked to evaluate some of the proposed tree removals tonight.

I am deeply dissatisfied with the promiscuous way this Board has been permitting trees to be removed. It contradicts the law as I helped write it and as the Village board expressed its intent in passing it.

I urge you to deny applications that ask to removed healthy trees when there are other alternatives -- alternate patio designs, alternate house configurations etc. This community is losing trees at an unsustainable rate. It should stop.

16 Talley Road -- I have seen photos of the trees to be removed. These are extremely valuable trees that should remain.

90 Fir Drive -- I have seen photos of the trees to be removed. These are extremely valuable trees that should remain.

26 Rock Hill Road -- I have seen photos of the trees to be removed. These are extremely valuable trees that should remain.

78 Old Farm Road -- The plan to remove a 30" Oak tree is reckless. The other smaller oaks are also valuable community assets. Barring arborist or Tree Warden reports it is reckless for the Board to permit any of their removals.

22 Spring Hill Road -- I understand there is a birch in the rear and another tree in the rear that cannot be seen. Without more clear public information these trees should be preserved.

I have consulted with advocate Richard Brummel on these comments and refer to his own letter to the Board and testimony.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Richard Oberlander, Certified Arborist, (516) 456-3968