



Richard Oberlander
Tree Surgeon
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NASSAU SUFFOLK TREE SERVICE

PRUNING • REMOVAL • CABLING • STUMPS • SPRAYING

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June 3, 2013

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:

Below is my professional opinion regarding several applications currently before your Board.

I am an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, the major national accrediting body for tree experts. My certification number is NY0918A. I was originally certified in approximately 2000. I have been a practicing arborist for about 10 years. I work throughout the North Shore. I live in East Hills, where I have been a resident about 45 years. I was a member of the East Hills Architectural Review Board and contributed to the establishment of a Tree Preservation law. My company is Nassau Suffolk Tree Service.

As an arborist I am trained to assess the health of trees, to design landscaping for trees, to remove trees, and to maintain the health of trees. I am in this field because I value trees for their beauty and their vital place in nature and in our communities. My academic background is Cornell University BS in Agricultural Science 1962. I have received other extensive training by attending about 40 – 50 seminars of continuing education in arboriculture.

I looked the the property at 25 Elm Drive with permission from the neighbors. On the right side of the house there are several trees that are Locusts with sparse lower branches; they are healthy and just need pruning. They and the other trees provide privacy, shade, and other ecological values and aesthetic benefits to the

applicant property as well as to the neighboring properties, and to the community as a whole. I do not believe these trees can be removed without diminishing all those values provided by these trees, particularly in light of the degradation that occurred on the nearby corner of Walnut Dr. under the auspices of the Board. And in light of the size of the home proposed, the trees provide an even more important contribution to the locale.

At 20 Redwood Drive I observed the two trees in the front of the house. These are healthy vibrant trees that do not pose any notable risk to the house as they appear to be structurally sound and have survived massive storms as we all experienced last year. Again these trees are important to the community as well as to the properties they directly reside on and it would be against the spirit of the village tree protectio law to permit their removal. I was not able to adequately view the tree in the rear of the house due to the lack of access provided to the public prior to ARB hearings on the properties.

At 37 Village Road I find the two Oak trees in the front of the house to be extremely attractive, healthy, and structurally sound trees that are assets to the greater community and to the immediate neighborhood -- in which I personally reside nearby -- and which neighborhood has seen a substantial diminution of healthy trees and the overall tree canopy in recent years for various reasons, including permits issued by the ARB. These trees should be preserved. The trees in the rear are not adequately visible from the street to evaluate, and should therefore be presumed healthy for the purpose of public testimony unless and until he public is given access to view them.

At 23 Peach Drive the landscaping plan calls for many shrubs but no canopy trees. If the Village is to have a canopy in the future landscaping must consistently incorporate new canopy trees as a matter of standard requirement for approval.

Sincerely,

signed

Richard Oberlander, Certified Arborist
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