



Richard Oberlander
Tree Surgeon
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NASSAU SUFFOLK TREE SERVICE

PRUNING • REMOVAL • CABLING • STUMPS • SPRAYING

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9-9-13

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 at 90 Fir

Dr and 78 Old Farm Rd.

I strongly object to the proposals to remove healthy trees in general.

90 Fir Dr --

At 90 Fir Dr there are numerous magnificent Oak and other trees in excellent health. They provide robust ecological and aesthetic services to the community. There is no sound reason in policy to allow these trees to be removed. Developers may ask but they can and should be denied.

Richard Brummel told me the ARB file for this property lists the trees as "deciduous" for the most part and lacks any street landmarks or compass orientation making it impossible to evaluate individual trees. Further I did not see any red ribbons on any of the trees indicating their potential removal. Finally as Mr. Brummel has repeatedly brought up, without public access to the property we cannot see many of the trees proposed for destruction nor can we judge fully the ecological impact on the property.

For these reasons I strongly object to the removal of trees from 90 Fir Drive.

78 Old Farm Road --

Mr. Brummel said the trees are listed on the application as Oaks except for one Jap. Maple. They are in fact Norway Maples except for the one non-Oak. So the application is flawed and defective.

On my visit none of the trees were marked and I could not see them fully.

However they are for the most part healthy though in need of routine pruning and do not warrant removal as they are important ecological elements of the property and the neighborhood.

I am deeply dissatisfied with the excessive 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 remove 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.

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

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Signed

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