

East Hills Fails to Protect the Environment or Preserve Our Neighborhoods, Over and Over Again....

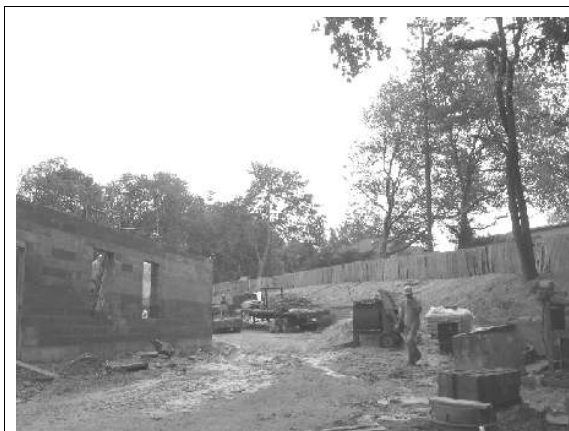
Essential East Hills Reforms:

- Hire a **Village Administrator** to Oversee Day-to-Day Government
- Create a **Historical District in Norgate** to Preserve the Oldest Neighborhood
- **Overhaul Boards and Committees** with Open Membership Procedures
- **Create Transparency and Openness** through On Line Documents, easy records access, and other innovations.

Exhibit 1 – Ineffective village oversight means no trees are safe despite the Tree Law.



Fire house site July 2012 -- Roots cut.



Fire house October 4, 2012 Trees removed

This is a common problem here – loss of healthy trees due to badly controlled construction. In the small sample of construction sites we have recently become aware of, avoidable incidents occurred at the **firehouse site, 27 Laurel Lane** (75 foot Beech lost) and **30 Hickory** (75 foot Beech and other trees, under questionable analysis). Two large trees reportedly damaged at a site at **10 Maplewood Lane** are pending now before the Architectural Review Board (ARB). And we saw root damage at another site not now before any board. **Solution:** These failings are never even discussed by the Village Board. They are in the dark. There is no oversight and feedback. Only a village administrator could start to oversee failings like. We also need a robust new civic association, such as the proposed **Keep East Hills Green Civic Association**. (See www.planet-in-peril.org for more information, as well as general information on the overall firehouse debacle.)

Exhibit 2 – Even huge solid trees are cut despite village Tree Laws.



Village cut numerous trees in Park 9/27, including massive Oak at gate.



15 Fir Drive -- ARB may allow builder to cut some or all towering trees

With no public notice the Village on **9/27/12** cut down numerous massive trees at the **Park** without even the benefit of an arborist report, from what we were told. Included in this “tree massacre” were all the remaining trees surrounding police building, one of which was a huge healthy Oak tree about 200 years old (photo). (**See www.planet-in-peril.org**) Meanwhile a builder at **15 Fir Drive** was told that the Architectural Review Board (10/1) is fully open to his proposal to remove up to sixteen (!) massive, old-growth trees, including towering **Oaks** and **White Pines**, simply because he wants more room to build a new house (photo). **Solution** – Neighbors of 15 Fir didn't know what the tree application was for when they received a form letter, and no data is posted on the village website – despite state law requiring it. Transparency is required, and ALL trees in the village must come under protection.

Exhibit 3 – Norgate merits the protection of a formal Historical District



Classic Norgate home.



Traditional Norgate home.



Traditional Norgate home

Norgate, the oldest neighborhood in East Hills, needs better protection if it is going to survive the re-building boom with any of its original charm and natural beauty. Norgate needs protection from overly pliable village boards, profit-driven developers and insensitive new buyers. Continuing rebuilding will continually result in destruction of surrounding old trees and over-sized homes on overcrowded properties. East Hills should look to the the **Village of Roslyn** and the Town of North Hempstead's work in Unincorporated Roslyn Hts. A very useful **New York Times** article describes the development of the **Roslyn Heights Historical District** in 1999. "Municipalities have tremendous power to save historic resources, and in some cases the only power," said Lucy A. Breyer of the state's **Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**, "Historic District Plan Advances in Roslyn Heights," The N.Y. Times, Jan. 3, 1999.

For more information visit the East Hills section of **www.Planet-in-Peril.org**. The website is filled with photos and documents, soon to be including our recent testimony before the Tree and Building Review Committee.

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Help form the Keep East Hills Green Civic Association.
Help protect our small piece of the badly damaged planet today!