

**Mineola:
Stop Destroying Healthy Trees!
Open the Process to the Public
Start Preserving Natural Habitat and Clean Air**

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We are facing a **global environmental crisis** not only of global warming but of over-development and loss open space, and habitat for animals.

On **Long Island** we are rapidly losing remaining trees and open space within and around our suburban communities to development and panic over storms.

I am not picking on **Mineola**. At me own expense I am suing the **Village of East Hills**, my residence, in State Supreme Court over their environmental policies, an issue that has been covered in The Roslyn News (see antonnews.com).

The dozens of residents who signed the Mineola petitions asking for protection of the giant Red Oak tree at 208 Roslyn Road in January, and the petition seeking to protect the Sycamore/London Plane trees in April and May clearly favor protecting the environment here – and they seem to know the Village government is not doing it by itself.

The **Village of Mineola** has been aggressively cutting down healthy mature trees throughout the community over at least the past five years, according to numerous accounts of residents I spoke with while circulating two petitions to protect local trees.

Meanwhile **Mineola** private property-owners have also denuded most of the community if mature trees and continue to do so. There is no environmental law in **Mineola** protecting trees.

Both public and private tree removals, both in **Mineola** and throughout our region, are having effects on the environment of reducing habitat, increasing heat and CO2, eliminating air-filtering and pollution mitigation, and destroying animal habitat and food sources.

On April 30th and May 1st **Mineola** and **LIPA** have been in the process of destroying at least eight mature Sycamore/London Plane trees on **Roslyn Road** near Raff Avenue. See planet-in-peril.org.

These trees were thriving healthy trees over 50 – 75 years old that were landmark-quality.

Arborist **Richard Oberlander** has submitted a letter to the Village 8:30 AM Tuesday morning attesting to the health of the trees – and his conclusions were

undoubtedly know to the Village prior to Monday due to press inquiries.

Mr. Oberlander told the Village that even holes in the trees where limbs have been removed and small areas of decay in the core of the trees did NOT mean the trees were structurally unsound, and in fact they survived the recent storms.

One tree fell into another during or before the storms, but that tree had been weakened by an automobile crash according to a resident who was familiar with the story.

Mr. Oberlander urged the **Village** to halt removal operations until an arborist could evaluate the trees and the public could weigh in.

The petition I circulated with a resident of Raff Avenue and submitted Monday morning asked the Village not to cut down these trees before holding public hearings to present their reasons and allowing public input.

Throughout the process the only village official who would speak to me was new trustee Dennis Walsh, who answered his phone Tuesday morning but said he deferred to the Mayor. Mayor Scott Strauss refused to return calls.



We also reached out Tuesday to the offices of Assemblyman Ed Ra and Nassau Legislators Wayne Wink and Richard Nicoletto for help about this LIPA operation and the removal of trees on a County road..

Mineola is hotter, drier and more desolate because of its lack of mature trees. Many residents oppose this story.

The process of suburban deforestation must be halted and reversed; residents can organize and seek candidates and media that will address these issues.

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