EAST HILLS PETITION AGAINST TREE DESTRUCTION AND OVER-BUILDING

May, 2012

Contact Richard Brummel (516) 669-1741

We residents of East Hills NY wish to address our concerns to the Mayor and Board of Trustees as you formulate changes to Building and Tree-Protection laws, as noted on the Village website. We request that our names and concerns be added to the Hearing Record(s) for the Tree- and Building-law reviews.

(This petition is designed to communicate two sets of concerns and is structured so that signers can opt to support one or both of the two issues currently being addressed by the Village Board. Signers will sign and then initial the issue(s) with which they are concerned.)

(A) **Trees** – We, the undersigned initialling "A," are very dissatisfied that numerous healthy trees are being removed around our community with approval of the Mayor, Architectural Review Board, Zoning or Planning Boards, or the Tree Warden, when houses are demolished and reconstructed, or when so-called "landscaping plans" are created, or for frivolous issues like "exposed roots", "close proximity" to houses, or leaves falling on decks, etc., or by LIPA, or for questionable issues of health and safety that have not been confirmed by an independent arborist.

We are also very dissatisfied that each tree removed is not replaced by another native species, despite clear language in the **Tree Protection** law that specifically **requires replacement in all cases** *except where the terrain prohibits it*.

We are also opposed to the loopholes in the law for government removals and removals under "waiver" by the Architecture board.

We want the laws to be re-written to prevent ALL removals except where trees are unquestionably unhealthy and pose a safety risk, and to steeply increase fines for violations.

We urge that a **moratorium** be imposed to prevent all but emergency tree removals until the laws are re-written.

We also urge that the village begin an urgent replanting program affecting every willing property.

And we urge that the new laws include provisions for annual reporting of all tree-related actions and on the state of our trees and other natural assets.

(B) **Building** – Real estate developers and new owners are rampaging through our community knocking down original homes and replacing them with over-sized and typically inappropriately designed new homes that maximize all dimensions to the limits allowed in our zoning laws. We oppose this practice.

Real estate speculation is causing our streets to become construction zones for months on end, and is ripping apart the neighborhood character of our streets, despite rules that are supposed to protect neighborhood character under the Architectural Review laws.

We, the undersigned initialling "B,"urge the Village Board to change our laws to reduce permitted square footage, to increase setbacks, to put time limits on construction, to impose noise and emissions rules for construction equipment where possible, and to delay the starting hours of

construction.

We hope such changes will reduce the incentive to demolish and rebuild homes and instead encourage renovation to maintain our neighborhood character, reduce construction activity, and to conserve natural resources.

We also urge the village to announce and open to the public ALL meetings of its **Building Law Review Committee**, to maintain public Minutes of the meetings, and to hold a public hearing to incorporate residents' concerns **prior** to the committee's issuing its report(s).

We urge that a **moratorium** be imposed to prevent all but emergency construction until the laws are re-written.

Name	**Address**	**Phone**	**A** **TREE LAW**	**B** **BUILDING LAW**

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