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.

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.)
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
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!