



Richard Oberlander
Tree Surgeon
Certified Arborist

NASSAU SUFFOLK TREE SERVICE

PRUNING • REMOVAL • CABLING • STUMPS • SPRAYING
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Member
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National Arborist Association
New York State Arborist Association
L.I. Arbocultural Association

July 29, 2013

The Hon. John Kaiman, Supervisor
The Hon. Thomas Dwyer, Councilmember
Town of North Hempstead
220 Plandome Road
Manhasset NY 11030

FAX (516) 627-4204

Dear Supervisor Kaiman and Councilmember Dwyer:

I was asked to evaluate two trees at 79 Powerhouse Rd in Roslyn Heights that were marked by LIPA for removal with large fluorescent "X's" painted on the trunks and a LIPA blue metal removal disk with plastic ribbon on one tree.

For the reasons outlined below I urge you to stop LIPA from removing these healthy and vibrant trees which are an asset to the community and perform many ecological services as outlined in the Town's own tree law.

I am a resident of the Town of North Hempstead and have been for 45 years. I live in East Hills.

It is my understanding that the one tree on the front yard of the property is subject to protection under the North Hempstead tree law, and the tree situated between the sidewalk and the roadway is property of the town or county, and subject to their discretion.

It is my further understanding that Mr. Richard Brummel has had Councilmember Dwyer's staff attempt to ascertain who had authorized LIPA to remove these trees -- or to "top" them in such a manner that will effectively kill the trees -- and that the inquiries led in circles that came up with no known authorization from any public body that would be competent to make such a request.

I am an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, the major national accrediting body for tree experts. My certification number is NY0918A. I was originally certified in approximately 2000. I have been a practicing arborist for about 10 years. I work throughout the North Shore. I was a member of the East Hills Architectural Review Board and contributed to the establishment of the Tree Preservation law in East Hills about 6 years ago. My company name is Nassau Suffolk Tree Service . We have about two dozen employees.

As an arborist I am trained to assess the health of trees, to design landscaping for trees, to remove trees, and to maintain the health of trees. I am in this field because I value trees for their beauty and their vital place in nature and in our communities.

My academic background is Cornell University BS in Agricultural Science 1962. I have received other extensive training by attending about 40 – 50 seminars of continuing education in arboriculture.

I found the trees to be solid. Their foliage is lush and balanced, indicating systemic good health. While there are some branches that need to be pruned both trees appear, without further analysis, to be solid and sturdy.

It is obvious that despite the presence of power lines running through both trees that both the trees and the power lines survived Hurricane Sandy and hence have been "stress-tested", demonstrating their benign co-existence with the power infrastructure.

The street side tree bears some obvious scars of a prior apparent car accident, but the tree has healed and is not compromised by that issue.

I hope, and sincerely urge, that whatever steps are needed to assure the preservation of these trees. I am available to offer professional services required to assist in this, or to discuss this letter.

It is my opinion as an arborist and a resident that we have been losing far too many vital and treasured trees in North Hempstead and all around the area through highly ill-advised removals. Please do not let this be another such instance. I further urge you to take a more pro-active stance in comprehensively protecting our trees -- which as Town law states are vital ecological assets.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Oberlander".

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