

## **Attention :Architectural Review Board:**

This letter is in reference to an experience with LIPA that I would like to share with the committee as I do believe your mission is to preserve the character and charm of East Hills.

On July 30, 2012 a caravan of LIPA trucks appeared on my block without prior appointment. The workers stormed into my backyard with various tools ready to "butcher" the trees. They were on a mission to chop limbs and trunks off of trees they claimed were hanging on wires. I objected and asked them to leave. I did this for the following reasons:

They did not respectfully ask permission or state their intent.

They did not discuss the trees they were going to attack nor request input from the owner of the property.

The LIPA people assigned to this task did not speak English so I requested a person in charge in order to communicate.

I immediately ordered them off my property and was harrassed and told that even if I called the police I would have to allow this as the police would side with them.

I wrote a letter and gave it to the supervisor stating my concerns as well as the fact that LIPA was trespassing. They left.

The next morning, 7 A.M, my doorbell rang and the owner of the tree company told me he was here to cut the trees. I refused and asked for a supervisor. At 8:30 a supervisor arrived and I was told they will do what they had to do.

I once again stated my objections and showed the supervisor rules and regulations I had downloaded from the LIPA website regarding proper removal. I asked the supervisor to supervise with my input and allow pruning rather

than butchering as well as follow their guidelines. This request was adhered to as the owner stood by and supervised his workers along with my suggestions. I am not satisfied as the beauty of the backyard is compromised.

This is not the first time this invasion of an electrical company has happened. Unfortunately i lost a weeping willow tree, when on vacation, as Lilco literally chopped a tree down. They in turn replanted two Lindens as they had

devalued my property and changed the "look" of the back yard.

As you can see, I have had prior involvement with this situation and was therefore trying to be reasonable as well as prudent, wanting my backyard to maintain its beauty and character.

One of the reasons I bought this house 35 years ago was due to the beautiful trees. Unfortunately many power outages have occurred and the response seems to be attack the trees, yet the power outages have increased.

Being a reasonable person, I do understand the need for pruning but can not fathom why LIPA is given free reign to just chop and butcher without following guidelines hopefully set up by this committee. Some ideas:

As an architectural committee, whose purpose is to preserve rather than destroy, I request a re-evaluation of this system and hope the committee can find a middle course to preserve what is . This can be done by having

LIPA meet with residents , discuss the plan and receive input from the homeowners as to the pruning rather than the butchering of trees .

Honestly, no one wants to be reminded of storm troopers, denial of rights and disregard for things we hold dear.

Hope you can address this issue.

Sincerely

**Natalie Mansbach- 8/6/12**