

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, November 30, 2020**

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Hoyt, 935 Lathrop. Mr. Hoyt expressed his concern about the noise nuisance related to leaf blowers and suggested banning leaf blowers entirely.

Trustee O’Connell asked that Staff go back and do more research on the municipalities referenced by Mr. Hoyt.

President Adduci announced she sent an email to Senior Lifestyles indicating that a decision needed to be reached regarding the fence and landscaping for the adjacent neighbors, and that the email emphasized that the landscaping condition within the Planned Development to plant trees needs to be met. She referred to a letter written by the affected residents on October 23 and stated that based on the negotiations thus far, this is a reasonable request by the residents.

Dan Roche, 815 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Roche stated this is part of an ongoing pattern and that he appreciates the Village’s attention to this.

Trustee Henek stated she appreciates that the letter went out to the developer and that what she has been hearing from the residents throughout the construction process is that the developer has not followed through on what they have said they would do. She stated she

feels for the residents in terms of what response they may get from the developer moving forward and that it is important for the Village to be a strong advocate for the residents.

President Adduci stated the Board will always look for the best solutions for the residents.

Mr. Roche stated the process has been challenging and commented that this has affected the residents and depletes the sense of community.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that he attended another call regarding the River Forest Community Center project and reported they are completing an assessment, so the project is on hold to see the next steps. He stated there has been a lot of engagement with various parties.

Trustee Henek welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated she was happy to have attended the ribbon cutting for ChiBrowtique. She stated the Chamber did a nice job with the event and wished the business well.

Trustee Brennan stated the Sustainability Commission is still accepting and recycling corrugated plastic signs and that there is a new bin for holiday lights recycling. She stated the bins are under the train bridge behind Village Hall.

Trustee Vazquez reported that he and President Adduci attended a meeting with other villages to discuss age friendly efforts and collaboration on what local activities can be focused on. He stated they will continue to meet.

Trustee Cargie stated the Deer Committee is continuing their work and will be meeting again in December. He stated the work would be wrapping up soon.

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She noted that while some celebrate Thanksgiving, others remember it as a national day of mourning, stating that we can give thanks and remember our history as well. She stated that the Township is recognizing her, Jon Pape, and the Complete Count Committee for the work they did for the Census. She stated she is proud of everyone who helped and took part. She also shared a story about her child needing emergency services and noted they remembered what it was like to be in an ambulance because of block parties. She thanked Chief Bohlmann and the paramedics who responded for the quality of their care.

President Adduci stated she is happy to get the letter out regarding the Bonnie Brae residents and Senior Lifestyle. She stated she is working with Maywood Trustee Miguel Jones to promote a toy drive for the area. She also stated the Village is hosting a Christmas Tree for the Park District's tree trimming event and up to 10 residents can join. She stated she hopes this will add a little holiday cheer for River Forest.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - November 9, 2020
- b. An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2020 and ending on April 30, 2021 for the Village of River Forest – \$8,130,737 – Ordinance
- c. Amend the River Forest Bicycle Plan to Remove the Implementation (Long Term Phase) of the Side Paths on Harlem Avenue and North Avenue
- d. 2021 Public Notice of Meeting Schedule
- e. Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System Located at 1136 Monroe
- f. Waiver of Formal Bids (Due to an Intergovernmental Agreement) and Approval of the Service Provider Contract with Municipal GIS Partners for \$41,677.00
- g. Monthly Department Reports
- h. Performance Measurement Report
- i. Monthly Financial Report – October 2020
- j. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-J.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci emphasized she is very proud the Board passed a levy that is flat. She stated they did this because we are in an unfortunate pandemic and people are hurting, and it is the right thing to do in this moment. She congratulated Staff, who she stated work tirelessly on our behalf to ensure the Board can pass a flat levy.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals – Variation for Accessory Structure Height at 210 Gale Avenue – Ordinance

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variation to Section 10-9-6 of the Zoning Ordinance at 210 Gale Avenue, conditioned upon the removal of the upper west window.

Assistant Administrator Scheiner summarized the request. She noted the request is to match architectural style of the garage and that the purpose of a height limit is to prevent turning the structure into second story. She stated the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to approve the variation.

Trustee Cargie stated he spoke with a neighbor who was concerned about the upstairs western window. He asked that the variation include a condition to remove the window and stated the neighbor received that assurance from the petitioner.

Ms. Scheiner stated she spoke with the neighbor who indicated she wanted it removed for privacy reasons. She stated it is not an issue for zoning or building code and the variation being requested is not affected by whether or not the window exists.

Trustee Henek stated she found this a bit troubling and recalled a different variation request in which a resident had to go through extensive steps to figure out how to have a garage. She stated she was not sure the case has been made to establish a hardship other than the homeowner would like something that looks nice. She noted there was a comment during the hearing that not having this garage affects the property value, and she stated that could be said about any property. She reiterated that she found the lack of consistency troubling.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell about the other case, President Adduci stated it is height versus setback. Trustee Henek stated that at the end of the day it is a variation request.

Trustee Cargie recalled the neighbor opposition in the other case and that the only opposition here is the window. He stated the intent of zoning is to minimize impact to neighbors.

Ms. Maychruk stated her intention to comply and remove the window. She stated she has spoken to her general contractor about the change but that she did not ask the architect to alter the drawings.

Trustee Henek stated that number 7 in the Findings of Fact is not fully represented and that she did not believe standards 1, 3, 4, or 8 have been met. She reiterated that there was no hardship.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: Trustee Henek

Motion Passes.

- b. Zoning Board of Appeals – Variations for Rear Yard Setback and Lot Coverage Area Requirements at 7820 Augusta – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Sections 10-9-7 and 10-9-5 at 7820 Augusta Street.

Ms. Scheiner summarized the request. She noted the petitioners wish to enlarge their addition in order to house an indoor therapy pool. She explained the Zoning Board of Appeals' negative recommendation and reviewed the options available to the Village Board.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Ms. Scheiner reviewed the testimony on the record and that there was no additional expert testimony.

Trustee Vazquez stated that from his perspective and based on the evidence, he would be inclined to vote in favor of the variation.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Chief Bohlmann stated there does not seem to be any significant increase in fire hazards. He further stated he would recommend not allowing landscaping between the addition and the back of the fence in order to give first responders access in case of an emergency.

In response to questions from Trustee Cargie about the pool size, the petitioner Ms. Fabian explained the dimensions of the pool and that it would accommodate a chair lift.

In response to comments from Trustees Cargie and O'Connell about the neighbor's concern about a window in the addition, Ms. Fabian stated the neighbor has already installed a privacy fence and trees and that the removal of the window did not seem like a reasonable request.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Ms. Fabian explained their plans to install a drainage system.

Ms. Scheiner stated the Village Engineer would review the drainage during the building permit review to ensure it would not create or exacerbate draining issues.

Trustee Brennan stated it would be more appropriate to approve as an accommodation than as a variation.

Trustee Henek concurred and acknowledged the concerns about privacy and drainage.

Trustee O'Connell stated he would like to revisit the window issue.

Ms. Scheiner stated they have received comments on either side of the home in opposition.

Paul Steadman, 7800 Augusta. Mr. Steadman spoke in favor of the variation or accommodation and stated he believes he owns the only window that will actually see the addition. He stated the proposal makes sense as a way to use their home in order to care for the people living there.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: Trustees Cargie, Brennan, Henek, O'Connell

Motion Failed.

c. Zoning Board of Appeals – Reasonable Accommodations for Rear Yard Setback and Lot Coverage Area Requirements at 7820 Augusta – Ordinance

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve an Ordinance approving reasonable accommodations to rear yard setback and lot coverage area requirements for a ground floor addition with a therapy pool at 7820 Augusta Street, conditioned on no landscaping on the north lot line for the length of the addition.

Dan Lauber, 7215 Oak. Mr. Lauber stated he is the petitioners' attorney and spoke in regards to the windows and explained they do not pose a privacy issue. He encouraged the Board to approve the accommodation and stated it would not establish a precedent. He stated it is needed for the family to continue living in the house and to meet their needs. Mr. Lauber further stated passing this would show River Forest is a disability- and age-friendly community.

President Adduci briefly noted her concerns about setting precedent. She stated she would have voted in favor of the first motion and that any variance is a case by case basis. She further stated did not want the Board to walk away saying this was different than what was just denied.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, President Adduci confirmed that what was requested under the variation is the same proposal that could be approved as a reasonable accommodation.

There was a brief discussion about conditioning the approval to restrict landscaping for first responder access.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about an email concerning parking and traffic, Ms. Scheiner stated parking and traffic concerns during construction would be addressed in the building permit conditions.

Lydia Manning, 755 William. Dr. Manning noted she is a gerontologist and member of the Village's Age-Friendly Committee. She noted the difficulties of finding accessible housing and stated that as we look to the future, to use this as an opportunity to start to rethink rules and regulations and create accessible housing. She expressed her support of the proposal and encouraged the Board to approve it.

President Adduci stated this is something the Village should look at going forward, and Trustee Vazquez concurred. He rephrased his earlier comments about being more

accommodating to seniors and stated he does not want the Village to appear that they are being forced by federal law to approve something they could be doing on their own.

Trustee O'Connell stated they need a greater understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act and how it impacts people inside their homes.

President Adduci stated age-friendly variances should be considered for what they are because they send a clear message to seniors that we want them to stay in their homes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

d. Economic Development Commission – Amendments to Chapter 4-5 of the Village Code Regarding Sign Regulations – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 4-5 of the River Forest Village Code regarding sign regulations.

Ms. Scheiner summarized the modifications recommended from the Village Board's and Economic Development Commission's discussions.

Trustee Henek commented that the graphics are great. She suggested additional changes, including modifying some language, adding construction signs to definitions, and she asked about the inclusion of two-post signs for realtors.

These changes were discussed and there was consensus to rename Section 4-5-5 "Definition" instead of "Classification" and to modify the definition of "Post Sign" to allow up to two posts.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

e. Economic Development Commission – Report from Last Meeting (Verbal)

Administrator Palm reported on the last Economic Development Commission meeting. He stated Staff is still working with Representative Welch on securing grant funding for the LCFS demolition on Madison Street. He recognized Chair Neubecker and the work he has done, including securing rapid COVID-19 testing in the Village. He stated the Village is continuing to support local businesses through newsletters and that there is a new Shop River Forest page on the website. He noted his conversation with Liz Holt from the Chamber and that Staff is working to help promote their gift card program.

President Adduci noted the TakeOut 25 Oak Park page will add River Forest restaurants.

- f. Traffic and Safety Commission – Recommendation to Maintain the Intersections of Oak/Monroe and Oak/Clinton as Two-Way Stops (vs. the requested Four-Way stop)

Village Engineer Loster summarized this item and stated during the Commission’s conversation, there was not enough support for a second to the motion and the Commission effectively rejected the request.

Trustee Henek commented that in listening to the meeting, there was a discussion about crosswalks and that crosswalks across Oak would be helpful to make drivers mindful of people crossing there, even outside of school hours.

Mr. Loster stated the idea is to minimize crosswalks near the schools to funnel kids to safe routes where there is stop protection. He stated that if there is direction from the Village Board or the Commission to look into using crosswalks as a means of traffic control, Staff would want KLOA to opine on that.

Trustee Cargie expressed concern about revising the plan.

- g. Traffic and Safety Commission – Recommendation to Install a Loading Zone on the east side of Keystone Avenue from Madison Street north for a distance of one hundred ten feet (Ordinance) and Deny the Request for a “Do Not Enter” on Keystone from Madison

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve an Ordinance to install a Loading Zone on the east side of Keystone Avenue from Madison Street north for a distance of one hundred ten feet and to deny the request for a "Do Not Enter" sign on Keystone from Madison.

Mr. Loster noted the owner of Good Earth Greenhouse was not present at the meeting but submitted a letter.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Mr. Loster stated he could look into painting the curb yellow to clarify the length of the no parking zone.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Discussion: Culture of Equity and Inclusion – Internal Working Group

Administrator Palm reviewed the previous discussions and the outline provided in his memo. He noted training for the organization related to equity and inclusion, the conversations with Trustees Bachner and Brennan about a working group, and community and employee engagement more generally. He suggested defining what they are trying to do and achieve and recommended hiring an outside consultant who has done this type of work before.

Trustee Bachner emphasized the importance of this work and recalled the discussion about having an advisory group of community members who help the Village guide the priorities. She reviewed her work with Trustee Brennan in putting forward names of community members who have lived experiences and come from this background, noting it is critical to include them at the table for decision making.

Trustee Brennan stated she shared links to organizations that do this work with the rest of the Board. She noted she and Trustee Bachner have talked about how important it will be for the advisory group to research and identify which method and consultant to use.

President Adduci concurred and emphasized being leaders in this arena. She noted the community-wide working group through Dominican University and stated it is a good idea to look inside the organization. She highlighted the importance of the work and that Trustees Bachner and Brennan presented 12 wonderful people for an internal group. She asked what is the goal or mission and the process the Board wants to use to do all of that and make good recommendations and changes for the community. She welcomed the group to help in this process.

Trustee O'Connell stated he felt like he did not have a seat at the table and suggested as they try to formulate this, there may be somebody else out there who should be included in the group. He asked what they are trying to accomplish and what other people or members of the community need in order to be included.

There was discussion about how to know what qualities someone should possess in order to be considered for the group and how to know what is lacking from the group. The Board also discussed what the work is and whether to hire a consultant before forming a group or to have community involvement in selecting a consultant.

In response to a comment from Trustee O'Connell about wanting to have input on the group members, President Adduci recalled a previous discussion in which the other trustees would add some names to the list in order to have more people involved in the process. She suggested having Staff begin the process of outlining goals and objectives with the names of prospective members. She suggested that the trustees each provide a name and that a member of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and Economic Development Commission be represented in the group as well.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez about the conversations they had in selecting these individuals, Trustee Bachner stated they discussed the equity work generally and asked people for their backgrounds and their lived experience, whether they would be

willing to be a candidate for an internal advisory group. She stated they also discussed with the individuals that the group's goal or mission was not yet established but that perhaps it was something the group would work on.

Trustee Brennan noted the conversations were humbling and that the individuals who expressed interest have lived experiences and that some have felt marginalized in this community.

Trustee Vazquez recalled the Age-Friendly Committee's establishment and the D90 work he was involved in. He cautioned against having a large committee and the challenge of people coming in and out. Referencing the discussion questions from the memo, Trustee Vazquez suggested getting a consultant to help guide the Board. He stated he is impressed with the 12 names put forward and that they may be able to help answer the questions. He noted the need for the internal group's work to complement, and not overlap, the Dominican University approach.

Trustee Henek noted she referred a resident to Trustees Bachner and Brennan about getting involved and suggested that other trustees have further conversations with them or to refer interested residents to them.

President Adduci stated there are people out there who want to join the advisory group and recalled the process for the Age-Friendly Committee, noting the Board amended the Committee to allow everyone who applied to join.

Mr. Palm stated Staff would want to memorialize and get feedback from the Board on how to move forward. He noted the engagement of the community is not limited to an advisory group and it can take on many different forms, such as participating in a focus group or listening session.

There was more discussion about how to constructively engage the community and setting a mission for the group.

President Adduci stated there was consensus from the Board to build goals and missions for the group and stated Staff would take the lead in terms of beginning that discussion with multiple people in multiple ways.

Mr. Palm stated he and Ms. Scheiner would work on that and present it at the next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion: Outdoor Landscaping Equipment

Mr. Palm stated Staff has become aware of residents concerned about the intensity and frequency of leaf blowers and general landscaping noise and that Staff is looking for direction from the Board. He noted that if regulation is pursued, enforcement would be difficult due to noise complaints being a low priority item and that tickets would not necessarily stop the

work from happening. He suggested it could be a topic for the Sustainability Commission to consider.

There was a discussion about new technology for leaf blowers that would lower the decibel level, and it was noted raking is too labor intensive and would cost landscapers' customers. The Board considered the differences between leaf blowers and snow blowers and when they are used.

President Adduci suggested limiting the time and days in which is it allowed, and Trustee Bachner suggested giving landscapers the requirements and restrictions upon licensure.

Trustee Henek suggested waiving the license fee of a "green" landscaping company.

Mr. Palm stated landscaping companies may not be overly sophisticated in their operations and reiterated that enforcement of the noise issue is a challenge.

President Adduci stated Staff can reinforce the Village's existing restrictions and send a letter to landscapers advising them they have to abide by the law.

In response to a comment from Trustee Brennan, President Adduci suggesting beginning a campaign of sorts to highlight the environmental issues, similar to the Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families campaign.

The Village Board reached a consensus to ask the Sustainability Commission to look into sustainable alternatives to leaf blowing.

b. Discussion: Fence Variation Process for 800 block of Bonnie Brae

President Adduci stated this item is to allow the residents to erect a 12-ft fence by right instead of going through the standard fence variation process.

Mr. Palm explained there is a fence variation process to allow people to seek variations if not within the regulations. He stated the only adjacent property owners to the potential fences would be Senior Lifestyles, who has indicated they would not object. He stated the Board could pass an ordinance at the next meeting to allow the residents to erect the taller fence by right.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Palm stated it is possible not everyone would erect a 12-ft fence but stated he thinks they would do it collectively.

Saskia Bolore, 811 Bonnie Brae. Ms. Bolore stated the residents want the ability to put up the fence and the developers do not have a problem with it, regardless of differing materials.

Trustee Cargie expressed concern about foreclosing the opportunity for other neighbors to object.

The Board reached a consensus to consider at its next meeting an ordinance to allow the residents to construct the taller fence by right and to have Staff mail a notice to neighbors about the consideration of the ordinance.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Administrator Palm announced that because the Board would be going into Executive Session on a different Zoom line, there would be no further discussion or action after Executive Session and that the Board would adjourn immediately after.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village at 10:30p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 10:50p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Brennan, Bachner Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Brand-White.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the special Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 10:50p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOI](#)
Subject: Gasoline Leaf Blowers
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 1:39:40 PM

To the River Forest Village President and Board of Trustees:

The use of gasoline powered leaf blowers by landscaping services has gotten out of control just about everywhere, but especially in communities with large areas of lawn turf such as River Forest. I can say, as a former resident of the City of Chicago, that the incessant roar of leaf blowers and industrial-sized mowers is far more annoying than the occasional rumble of a passing CTA bus, which seems almost tranquil in retrospect.

Between September and late November, it is nearly impossible to go a working hour in one's home without hearing the tremendous racket gas powered leaf blowers produce from one direction or another, and sometimes from all directions simultaneously. A small yard may have three large blowers working at the same time to speed up the job, bringing all productive activity or basic human intercourse to a halt in surrounding homes as the noise level reaches that of an airport runway (above ~110 decibels).

This is disruptive and annoying, of course, to all the people working from home. It is also a health hazard to all in terms of the potential for hearing loss and unavoidable proximity to elevated particulate emissions. The efficiency and utility of gas powered leaf blowers in relation to their narrow purpose are obvious. Their corresponding harms are also documented, increasing, and unsustainable.

Together with other gasoline-powered equipment used in conventional lawn care practices, leaf blowers generate levels of noise that can cumulatively cause hearing loss for lawn care workers and any neighborhood residents who happen to be close by and repeatedly exposed to anything above 80-85 decibels, even those at some distant from the noise source.

The more expensive, quieter gas powered versions are a major and growing source of fine particulate pollutants (PM 2.5), to which even short-term exposure has been shown to contribute to a number of chronic diseases (heart attack, congestive heart failure, asthma, cancer, pulmonary disease), as well heightened susceptibility to Covid-19. Particulate pollution especially has remained stubbornly high in the greater Chicago region even during the recent pandemic-related economic slowdown. A 2011 EPA report concluded that, "[C]hildren, seniors, and persons with chronic illnesses are especially vulnerable to the negative health impacts of GLME (gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment) emissions. Routine use of GLME in the vicinity of residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other public spaces may be exposing the public to unnecessary and preventable health risks." (Banks and McConnell, "National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment", 2011).

Lastly, and not of least significance, the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers is ecologically destructive. They are most effective at stripping a property of its organic nutrients and most of the overwintering biota that accompany even a small amount of undisturbed leaf litter, and which contribute to the natural health of the soil.

The downsides of most regulatory approaches to this problem are that they will potentially impose costs, to the landscaping companies and to the consumers of lawn care, and potentially to the Village in terms of administration and policing. However, the true costs to the health

and well-being of the community must also be fully appreciated and calculated, to say nothing of the intangible 'quality of life' that allegedly corresponds to a bucolic and leafy suburb.

I urge you to consider greatly reducing if not eventually banning the use of gas powered leaf blowers entirely.

Sincerely,
David L. Hoyt
935 Lathrop Avenue