

Dear Mayor Hochvert and Village Board of Trustees,

The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is writing in support of the Scarsdale Forum's recommendation of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 to codify an organic landscape management policy for Scarsdale.

The CAC appreciates the work of Village Management and the Parks Department over the years to maintain our community parks and playing fields in keeping with organic landscaping practices. While the majority of our Village green spaces are cared for with this sustainable approach in mind, it has come to our attention that some village properties are occasionally treated with chemical pesticides which, through inhalation, skin contact and/or absorption into our water system, pose a serious health hazard to residents as well as to the landscape which we collectively wish to care for and preserve.

The CAC has reviewed the Scarsdale Forum Report of the Sustainability Committee and the Municipal Services Committee "The Village of Scarsdale Policy on Sustainable Landscape Management to Protect Public Health, Safety, Welfare and the Environment" dated September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Forum's report cites extensive scientific evidence that using chemical pesticides on our landscape, even in small amounts, presents serious health risks. Additionally, these toxic substances have a perverse effect on the landscape itself. Fortunately, the Forum's report also cites readily available organic treatment alternatives that our landscape service providers can utilize in place of toxic chemicals.

Accordingly, the CAC urges the Board to proceed with the Forum's recommendation to codify the use of organic landscape maintenance and establish a Village of Scarsdale Policy on sustainable landscape management, thereby formalizing the Board's long-term vision and commitment to safe, healthy and sustainable living in Scarsdale.

Sincerely,

The Conservation Advisory Council  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 2018