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December 5, 2017

Dear Mayor Hochvert and Trustees:

I share the concerns of the Friends of the Scarsdale Parks and others about the sustainability of the existing tree canopy. I agree that a program to replace trees that die or come down in a storm with new plantings is desirable. For the record, I am a member of the Friends of the Scarsdale Parks and am also a member of The Board of Directors of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy. I am writing to you today only on behalf of myself.

It seems to me that a program of encouragement should be followed as opposed to the current proposal which I view as coercive, financially punitive and a violation of personal property rights.

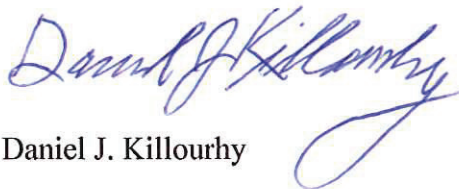
One should reflect on the fact that the village has the right to replace the lovely old growth trees (tall oaks, maples and elms) that come down within the 13 foot right of way along the front of every property owner's property in Scarsdale. We lost so many of these during Hurricane Sandy and at other times. Planting of these types trees along the right of way either to replace what has recently come down or where there is considerable ample open space should occur before a coercive program of fees, fines and property right violations is instituted.

A survey of existing properties could be conducted to identify where new plantings on the right of way could occur. The Village could encourage individual homeowners to participate through education/outreach efforts.

It should also be considered that possibly with the exception of new development and tear down situations where developers are mostly concerned with making a profit, many residents already plant new trees when old ones come down. I have done this myself on my own property.

It also seems that some focus should be on tree replacement as part of the BAR and Certificate of Occupancy processes where contractors are involved in major construction work on a property.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Killourhy

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