



*Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc.*

P.O. BOX 53

SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

June 4, 2018

Dear Village Manager Pappalardo and Mayor Hochvert,

On December 7, 2017 members of our board and, we're told, members of Village staff attended a Pond and Lake Management Workshop sponsored by the County. Workshop materials provided a wealth of information regarding pond and lake ecology, the eutrophication process, aquatic invasive plants, the current status of Westchester water bodies, storm water management, and the design and implementation of a pond (or lake) management plan. The presentation (available at <https://planning.westchestergov.com/soil-water-conservation>), identified issues and solutions that are likely relevant to the Library Pond, a water body with health, safety, infrastructure, maintenance and related issues that we believe should be addressed.

Our understanding is that there is no organized program to test the Library Pond water for harmful pathogens and toxins and to curtail algal blooms, which primarily consist of cyanobacteria that may produce toxins harmful to humans and wildlife, and among other things, to help prevent eutrophication; to curtail dissolved nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from landscape fertilizer runoff; and to curtail growth of aquatic plant life such as phytoplankton, which typically causes depletion of dissolved oxygen. We recommend seasonal testing of the water to determine its quality and take action commensurate with the results.

The behavior of visitors to the Library Pond, including young children who are not supervised carefully, is also of concern. Children have been observed falling into or playing with the water. While signage notifying the public not to feed or interact with Pond wildlife has been installed, there is no barrier or other infrastructure that prevents water related risks to public health and safety. In addition, the deterioration and partial collapse of the stone and mortar Pond surround is of concern.

The development of a Library Pond Management Plan similar to that discussed at the Workshop would enable the Village to identify and address the concerns outlined above. We are interested in discussing these issues at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Friends of the Scarsdale Parks by:

Madelaine Eppenstein, Secretary-Treasurer

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Cynthia Roberts, Director (BA Environmental Studies, Brown University 1981; New York Botanical Garden Certifications in Arboriculture, Sustainable Landscape Management and as an Urban Naturalist)

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