

## Donna Conkling

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**From:** Michele Braun <mxbraun@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 10:19 AM  
**To:** Mayor; Clerk's Department  
**Cc:** Donna Conkling  
**Subject:** Letter to the Mayor and Village Trustees

To the Mayor and Trustees of Scarsdale:

A dozen days ago I sent you the message below, expressing my intense disappointment with the Board of Trustee's failure to reappoint an experienced, responsible, and hardworking volunteer to the Village's Board of Assessment Review (BAR). I am forwarding my message again for several reasons:

- 1 - My letter has not been posted to the website,
- 2 - Letters and statements to the Board of Trustees since then, including from all the continuing members of the BAR, have documented Jane Curley's noteworthy work for the BAR and that she easily exceeds the qualifications for services on that committee in strong contrast to individuals appointed in her stead, and
- 3 - Trustees have not responded to my or other letters on this issue except by negative innuendo in the local newspaper.

Therefore, I again urge you, entreat you, to stand up for the betterment of our community, our taxpayers, and good democratic governance by righting this wrong before the upcoming grievance season.

Sincerely,  
Michele Braun

14 Wakefield Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: Michele Braun  
Sent: Apr 11, 2018 2:08 PM  
To: mayor@scarsdale.com, clerk@scarsdale.com  
Subject: Re: Letter to the Mayor and Village Trustees

To the Mayor and Trustees of Scarsdale:

I am shocked and extremely disappointed to learn that Scarsdale resident Jane Curley, a very talented and quantitative volunteer, was not reappointed to nor invited to rejoin the Board of Assessment review despite her extensive experience and demonstrated willingness to "step up" and do important, time consuming work on behalf of all Scarsdale residents. Clearly, money and services are the two of the most important issues for any local government. Because revenue to spend on services--including salaries for Village staff--comes primarily from property assessments, Village residents care about their property valuations. Events of the past several years concerning valuations and the assessor's office, including the number of valuation grievances, illustrate the importance residents place on getting this right. I would like to believe that you also are committed to "getting this right."

I understand that when terms expire, Board members are typically invited to be reappointed, but Jane Curley was not. For some unknowable reason, Scarsdale's elected leadership chose fill Ms. Curley's seat with someone with substantially less experience and no apparent direct knowledge of local real estate. All the continuing members of the Board of Assessment Review went on the record to support Ms. Curley. Is this a conscious effort either to disrespect a dedicated volunteer and local expert or to fill critical roles with individuals beholden to the party in power? Is this political retribution or too-cozy insider activity?

This is not acceptable or responsible government, nor does this support the public interest. In the interest of our local community and with no disrespect to replacement appointees, I implore you to take immediate action to rectify this wrong -- and to ensure that Scarsdale government is representative, skilled, and democratic.

Sincerely,

Michele Braun

14 Wakefield Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583

April 11, 2018