

Donna Conkling

From: Madelaine Eppenstein <meppenstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Mayor; Trustee Arest; Trustee Crandall; Trustee Lewis; Trustee Ross; Trustee Veron; Trustee Waldman; Manager's Department; Brian Gray; Clerk's Department
Cc: Michelle Sterling; dlefranc@montefiore.org
Subject: Scarsdale Forum Supplemental Report on Sustainable Landscape Management Policy Recommendation, April 30, 2019

Dear Mayor, Trustees, Village Manager and PRC Superintendent,

The undersigned are the committee chairs respectively of the Scarsdale Forum Sustainability Committee and the Municipal Services Committee. The Executive Committee of the Forum has approved for release to the public the joint report of these committees, the “Supplemental Report on Sustainable Landscape Management to Protect Public Health, Safety, Welfare and the Environment,” which recommends that the Village adopt an organic landscape management policy. The link to the Supplemental Report is [here](#). The committee chairs are requesting that a Committee of the Whole of the Village Board be convened to consider our recommendation.

This Supplemental Report is a follow up to the initial report published by the Scarsdale Forum in September 2018 (which is attached as Appendix A to the Supplemental Report). In the short time since then, there have been significant developments regarding the health and environmental risks posed by toxic pesticides, litigation outcomes, and municipal codes passed in major cities banning pesticide use. These updates are reflected in the Supplemental Report to bring this urgent matter to the Village Board’s attention.

The Village already follows sustainable organic landscape management practices. While this is both beneficial and commendable, “practices” followed by the current Village staff do not provide sufficient safeguards for the longer term. Adoption of a sustainable landscape management policy that avoids the use of toxic pesticides, as urged by the Supplemental Report, is necessary to ensure operational continuity and to institutionalize best and least harmful practices, regardless of changes in Village management personnel and variations in landscape management practices that might result from such personnel changes.

To be effective over the long term, current practice should become official, formal policy, similar to Westchester County pesticide regulations covering County property, and New York State regulations in which pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, are banned on school property with few exceptions. Examples of policies in use by other municipalities are attached to both reports.

We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with the Committee of the Whole as soon as possible to discuss our committees’ recommendation and the best way to move forward, especially now that spring landscape care of Village properties has already begun.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sterling & Darlene LeFrancois Haber, Co-Chairs, Scarsdale Forum Sustainability Committee
Madelaine Eppenstein, Chair, Scarsdale Forum Municipal Services Committee