

Donna Conkling

From: Tama Seife <tkseife@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Clerk's Department
Subject: Letter to Mayor Mark and Board of Trustees

TO: Mayor Mark, Board of Trustees

FROM: Tama Seife, 21 Circle Road

DATE: Sept. 7, 2016

Approximately three years ago the 1925 Colonial situated on 2/3 of an acre of wooded property next door to me was torn down. I attended all meetings including the Historical Preservation committee, Planning Board meetings and the Board of Architectural Review regarding the property and the subsequent approvals.

Attending all these meetings was an education in how much paper work, review, and time it takes to get approval for a new project. It was also a lesson in how little coordination there is and how little thought to the consequences of these individual approvals are to the ambience and value of the neighborhood. Clearly the Planning Board was interested in what was possible to do with the property. They addressed whether they could raise the level of the property (yes they could), whether they could cover a culvert (no problem), could they erect a wall made out of concrete building material in the middle of the property (sure!), raise the storm water sewer pipe (not difficult). Did all the trees need to be removed? Yes, they were "sick" anyhow and interfered with the plans. No one thought to imagine what the aesthetics might be as the plans progressed.

After all that, there has been no construction activity on the property. It sits covered in weeds, piled with rocks and concrete blocks as an eyesore smack in the middle of Circle road. It served for 6 months as an overnight parking lot for construction trucks working on other projects, as a receptacle for rocks trucked in from elsewhere, and as a dump for some tree trunks imported from remote properties made treeless.

The Village building department has been helpful in getting rid of the trucks and in getting the property mowed. They too want the property maintained. They are, however, limited in what they can do. It is time for the Village to amend the code to prevent long term blight by making it increasingly costly for speculators who buy property and then let it sit untended and unimproved.

Tama Seife

21 Circle Road

