

Date: March 20, 2024
To: Board of Trustees, Village of Tuxedo Park
Subject: Public Hearing on Draft Local Law on licensing landscapers

We, the undersigned, support the proposed local law to license landscapers working in our Village. Some of us spoke at the February Board of Trustees meeting to this effect, but we would like to reiterate here our reasons for supporting this important initiative.

1. Build trust and confidence in a partnership between residents and landscapers.

Implementing a licensing system will create a framework of trust and confidence between landscapers and residents/Village boards. Licensed professionals will be demonstrably accountable, providing residents with peace of mind. Similarly, our Village boards will be equipped with a transparent and easily managed method for oversight, thus fostering a collaborative environment in which responsible landscaping practices are encouraged and supported.

2. Enforce the existing Village Code.

Our existing Code contains many provisions governing landscaping activities. However, effective enforcement remains a challenge. A licensing system would establish a clear pathway to accountability, ensuring that all landscapers operating within Tuxedo Park are familiar with and adhere to these regulations.

3. Protect our reservoir and its ecosystem.

Tuxedo Lake provides our drinking water. Its attending ecosystem of lakes, feeder streams, and surrounding hills is not only integral to our community's character but also vital for our well-being. Activities such as blowing leaf debris into the water and unauthorized and excessive tree removal increase soil erosion and stormwater runoff to the detriment of our water quality, riparian buffers, wildlife habits, and overall environmental health. Ensuring that landscapers understand and observe existing regulations will help in advocating the long-term health of our reservoir and its surrounding ecosystem, preserving its beauty and ecological value for generations to come.

4. Join peer communities in adopting a successful best practice.

Communities such as Village of Southampton, Village of East Hampton, Village of Irvington, and Princeton, to name a few, use licensing effectively to ensure the quality of their landscape contractor' work, to protect their homeowners and to enforce their laws. Tuxedo Park will be adopting their tried and tested method.

We hope the Trustees will vote tonight to pass this much needed local law.

Sincerely,

Allen Barnett
Christopher Boshears
Barry Breeman
Pam Breeman
Elizabeth Cotnoir
Brad Ewing
Enrique Faria
Christopher Gow
JoAnn Hanson
Jim Hays
Nancy Hays
Chiu Yin Hempel
Gardiner Hempel
Peter Hempel

Jake Lindsay
Rob McQuilkin
William Russell
Howard Shore
Mae Shore
Jason Swirbul
Jill Swirbul