

January 5, 2023

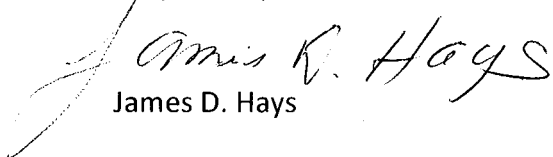
Dear members of the Tuxedo Park Board of Trustees,

First, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you for your service to our community.

To continue the discussion of changing tree cutting rules, initiated by Trustee Brooke, I would like to add that although the number of trees cut in a single year is environmentally important, it is even more important where they are cut. This is true for any community, but it is especially true for ours, as our soils are thin and easily eroded if trees are removed. Eroded soils, washed into our lakes, increase the amount of phosphate and other harmful pollutants in the lakes. Consequently, tree cutting should be restricted in environmentally sensitive areas, for example, within 100 feet of our lakes, on steep slopes anywhere in the Park but especially those ending at lake shores and on the banks of streams feeding our lakes. Without the addition of such restrictions the suggested changes to the tree cutting rules will allow extensive cutting in these sensitive areas.

Our lakes are owned by the Village, they are our common property and you as trustees are the custodians. You must be resolute in protecting our lakes and the watershed that nurtures them and not be influenced by the whims of those who care more about their views than the health of our lakes and the water we all drink.

Respectfully,

James D. Hays