

Plandome Heights Civic Association:

I am writing this letter to comment on the article written in The Manhasset Times, "Heights to consider nixing Planning Board".

When I read the local paper each week, I am always amazed at people that seem to have a need to express their opinions publicly as you did last week. Today, as an afterthought, I received an email addressed to Members and Residents from the Plandome Heights Civic Association. In my opinion, this email should have been your **first priority** before going to the press. Critical discussion of Village business outside the Village does not lead to a solution or make for fair and unbiased negotiations. The aim of expressing criticism publicly in a newspaper is only to stir up trouble.

You are certainly entitled to your opinion and meeting and hearing both sides of the issue in a forum, where both pros and cons can be discussed, would truly make for a more educated decision.

As a member of the community, and the wife of a board member, I am truly appalled and offended by the statements made by Rosemary Mascali beginning with the insinuation that the prospect of dissolving the Planning Board was **done in a clandestine manner. Really?** In a community where the Mayor sends out emails constantly to keep us abreast of what's going on.

Rosemary also stated, and I quote: "The [village] trustees are involved with the normal day to day issues, but subdivisions are unique situations for anyone that's involved in the Planning Board and at least has the training associated with that," Mascali said "[The Planning Board is} independent, it's not going to be influenced by a particular property coming up." **"[We're seeking] an independent board that is looking at it, you know, truly in the best interests of the village, not perhaps in the interests of a particular resident that wants something done at that property,"** she said.

The **insinuation here is that the Board of Trustees are not honest** and would perhaps show favoritism to a particular resident. Do Rosemary Mascali and the Civic Association really think that the Board of Trustees basis their decisions on the **interest of a particular person?** This statement is inflammatory and insulting, to say the least.

Wow! I believe that this statement was slanderous. Our village is well maintained and overseen by Mayor Riscica who keeps his residents well informed through his emails and newsletters. Over the years our light poles have been painted, our street signs replaced, stop signs replaced, our trees' constantly looked at and taken care of, and our roads are in good shape among many other issues. The overall daily village decisions are not made because of the "interests of a particular resident". I think we would all agree that we are truly lucky to live here. We have a great village with wonderful neighbors and friends. Throwing insults to the current Board of Trustees does nothing to promote the Civic Associations case to keep an Independent Planning Board.

The decision on an Independent Planning Board will be decided after input by residents at a Public Hearing via Zoom on February 1st. I would like to add that there are at least several other villages (some larger than ours with commercial real estate) in the Town of North Hempstead that do **NOT** have Independent Planning Boards. This is a small village with only a couple of parcels left that *could or could not* come up for sub division.

I am not well enough versed, one-way or the other, on this issue to make any kind of decision at this time. My intent here was not to discredit the **idea** to keep or eliminate the Planning Board, but rather to point out that there are civil ways to make an argument for or against the subject and to keep it within our village and not to make a public display through use of the newspaper.

Sincerely,

Judy Taylor
Cc: Ken Riscica