

Jason Elder, 273 Leeds Drive

- Riding Club was founded in 1937, 20 years prior to the incorporation of Barrington Hills
 - Mission is twofold – to protect and maintain the network of bridle paths that make Barrington Hills unique
 - To create and maintain interest in horseback riding, obtain great facilities for it, and foster social intercourse within the community.
- Last night the RCBH Board based on input from many concerned members unanimously voted to have me share this concern with the Village Board and encourage you to take action
- Many of us are generally familiar with the ongoing LeCompte Drury Lawsuit
 - This is essentially a dispute among neighbors
 - As both parties have increasingly used the state court system to interpret and challenge village law, it has become much more than that, and now impacts many people who are not involved, potentially everyone in the village.
- The most recent ruling on this case was based on a judgement from a 2011 state court ruling that is part of this same dispute. This 2011 ruling was published by the Village and our legal counsel, along with the state appellate court system has opined that this is now legal precedent and the law of the land – it reads:
- "Using stables for the commercial boarding of horses does not comport with the Village's Zoning Code."
- As mentioned, the LeCompte-Drury lawsuit is a neighbor to neighbor dispute.
- **This ruling, however, potentially jeopardizes the future of the other 20+ barns operated by our friends and neighbors that engage in the larger scale boarding and training of horses and don't have problems with neighbors.** *More significantly, the above language is so broad and so clear that it threatens the existence of the 100+ backyard stables boarding one or two horses for neighbors.* Both Large and small-scale boarding and training of horses has been a part of life in Barrington Hills since before the Village was founded and benefits everyone, whether or not they own horses.
- The open land necessary for these activities is enjoyed by all, and the most economic alternative use of these large properties is subdivision and development, which will change the look and feel of our community forever.
- In order to protect our future, we believe the Village Board *should take this opportunity* must clarify the zoning code as it relates to the boarding and training of horses so that a state court that does not know our community cannot threaten horses and open space in Barrington Hills.
- We hope all residents appreciate as we do the historic and ongoing role that horses have played in our community and understand the benefits we all enjoy. Today, given busy schedules and the demands of everyday life, many horsepeople prefer to have horses kept at a larger facility. My own daughter's pony, and one of my personal horses, are boarded at large boarding facilities (not Oakwood) and we have a nice barn with an outdoor arena. Removing these options for residents will slowly and progressively eliminate the horses and horsepeople who have helped build our community and work to keep it special.

I hope we can all work together with our Village Board and ZBA to prevent this from happening.

Pamela Cools, 13 year resident at 32 Little Bend Road.

I have two topics which I would like to comment on. The first is the ongoing discussion of developing a bicycle plan for the Village, as is now mandated by the State of Illinois. It has been explained that a bike plan is also essential if the Village is to qualify for road funding for repaving Haegers Bend through a grant from MCOG. As a member of the Plan Commission, I have heard a lot of comments from residents during our last two meetings, and the overwhelming sentiment is against bike lanes.

However, on Monday night, we did learn that bike lanes are not the only component of a bike plan. Signage identifying bike routes, urging motorists to "share the road", and adding additional stop signs, etc. can be viewed as compliance with this new Bicycle Mandate. One resident on Monday night expressed concerns about damage to the hundred-year-old oak trees on Tom Fitch's property along Haegers Bend & ~~Spring Creek~~ if the road is widened. This comment, combined with our commission's discussion of the Tree Preservation Ordinance gave me an idea, since those trees surely are not the only Heritage Trees along the road.

I would like to suggest that Roads and Bridges, in consultation with the Village Engineer and the Village Arborist, develop a new grant proposal for the repaving of Haegers Bend, utilizing increased signage as our means of bicycle compliance, and suggesting that widening the road to accommodate bike lanes is not practical due to the need to protect Heritage Trees along the roadside. I think that this would be a good compromise solution that would balance the need for funding with the concerns of our residents. I would also encourage representatives of our Village to meet with Algonquin to determine what their bike plan is, so as not to duplicate any path linkages, and to perhaps collaborate on using the land parallel to Haegers Bend set aside for the Northern Bypass to create a dedicated bike path.

My second topic is the continuing opposition of certain members of this Board to the appointments by our Village President. Our Code and the State Statute are very clear about the privilege of the President to nominate members of commissions. In the past, a coalition of trustees on this Board seemed to have no trouble rubberstamping each and every appointment by the previous President, especially the highly suspect lame-duck reappointments last April after he lost the election.

This coalition has now challenged President McLaughlin's sole authority to put forward nominations. And nearly every proposed appointment by our president has been met with resistance and excuses, ranging from questionable qualifications, political differences, inadequate geographical diversity on committees and previous attendance issues. And now even an application and interview process is being suggested in order to vet potential appointments. That sounds fair, however, when I reached out by email to Trustees Selman and Meroni after they expressed misguided concerns about my appointment to the Plan Commission last year, neither chose to email or call me to discuss their erroneous judgments about me and my extensive record of service to this community. Their silence speaks volumes.

I think we need to stop the hypocrisy and obstructionism and let President McLaughlin continue to restore some long needed balance to our Village commissions.