



Memo

To: Village President, Board of Trustees
From: Chairman Fern and the Heritage & Environs Committee
Date: February 17, 2017
Re: Litter

As we usher in the New Year it seems appropriate to revisit one of the challenges our beautiful Village is faced with, trash and litter.

We already have codes, ordinances and fines in place regarding when trash and recycling may be brought to the roadside and established fines for littering. However, we do not have an existing code, ordinance or fine on the utilization of inadequate containers which result in much of the trash that lines our roads.

January 10th, recycling collection day in my neighborhood, was a perfect day to use as an example. It was a gusty day and vintage low profile recycling bins, traditional style trash cans and trash bags were lined up at the end of resident's driveways. High winds readily removed the contents from the historic low profile recycling bins, the round lids from traditional style trash cans were rolling down the street (and subsequently the contents) and torn trash bags were spewing their contents into the roads, woods and neighbors properties.

It is not only adverse weather that spreads trash through our Village. On other occasions I have observed our local wildlife tearing into trash bags or seen the aftermath of tipped over cans that did not have attached lids. As someone who regularly participates in neighborhood and roadside cleanup projects I can state my strong belief that much of the trash collected on my street is not litter thrown out of passing cars but is trash that was disposed of in an inadequate manner and never made it into the garbage trucks.

The existing language in our ordinance addresses roadside collection and by amending the existing ordinance or using similar language we can address some of the concerns that the Heritage and Environs Committee (HEC) has been made aware of.

Enforcement would be treated the same as the existing roadside code. Roll off containers are typical of home construction or remodeling and not placed by the roadside. Homeowners or residents who have garage or backdoor service would not be subject to the amended ordinance.

The HEC asks the Trustees to consider amending the existing ordinance or implementing a separate ordinance to mandate the use of hinged lid containers for roadside trash and recycling collection. These are readily available thru the haulers and most home improvement stores for a modest cost. In addition, the Village should urge residents, regardless of the collection location, to use appropriate containers. It is our belief that this will help maintain the beauty and character of our unique community.