

GUEST ESSAY FOR THE EDITOR OF THE BARRINGTON COURIER -REVIEW

FIVE ACRES -- HISTORY LESSON

“IT’S DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN” (YOGI BERRA).

HERE ARE THE FACTS OF HISTORY THAT I REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL. IT WAS 15 OR TWENTY YEARS AGO THAT THE BUEHLER PROPERTY WAS PURCHASED.

SOME TIME AFTERWARDS, A BUILDER PRESENTED THE VILLAGE BOARD WITH AN ELABORATE SET OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE ESTATE (NOW GOOSE LAKE DEVELOPMENT). THE SCHEME INCLUDED “CLUSTER ZONING” WHEREBY A CLUSTER OF HOMES WOULD BE BUILT ON ONE ACRE LOTS AND THE BALANCE OF THE ESTATE (MOSTLY LOW LANDS, OR UNDER WATER) WOULD BE GIVEN TO CONSERVATION . THUS THE ENTIRE ESTATE WOULD HAVE THE SAME TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMES AS IF IT HAD BEEN SUBDIVIDED INTO LOTS OF 5 ACRES EACH, EVEN THOUGH THE HOMES WOULD BE ON ONE ACRE LOTS. THE ADVANTAGE TO THE OWNERS WOULD BE TO OBIVIATE THE LOSS OF SOME HOME SITES THAT WOULD BE UNBUILDABLE UNDER EXISTING ZONING. WE WERE ADVISED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD THAT THE PLAN SHOULD BE ADOPTED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE WERE NOT VIOLATING THE RULES OF EXCLUSIONARY DISCRIMINATION (IN LIMITING OUR AVAILABILITY TO ONLY THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO BUY 5 ACRES). I

COMMENTED AT THE MEETING THAT BUILDING ON ONE ACRE LOTS WOULD BE BREAKING OUR OWN ZONING NO MATTER HOW MUCH COMPENSATORY LAND AND WATER WAS DEVOTED TO OPEN SPACE. .

ON DECEMBER 24TH (SOUND FAMILIAR?) THE BOARD APPROVED THE CLUSTER ZONING MEASURE WITH ONLY ONE DISSENTING VOTE. — “WE HAD MET THE ENEMY AND THEY WAS US “ (POGO). VILLAGE RESIDENTS WERE OUTRAGED BY THE BOARD’S ACTION AND A SMALL GROUP OF NEIGHBORS CIRCULATED A PETITION TO REPEAL THE CLUSTER ZONING ORDINANCE.

OUR PETITION HAD NO LEGAL STANDING; AND YET IT COMMANDED THE POLITICAL RESPECT THAT RESULTED IN THE VILLAGE TRUSTEES VOTING UNANIMOUSLY TO REPEAL CLUSTER ZONING.

WE HAVE DELAYED ANY BUILDING ON THE DUDA 500 (APPROX) ACRE FARM FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS; THIS AT A COST OF NO MORE THAN \$200 PER YEAR PER PROPERTY OWNER. FRITZ DUDA DE-ANNEXED HIS PROPERTY. GREAT! BECAUSE THE VILLAGE STILL CAN INFLUENCE WHAT CAN BE DONE UP TO ONE AND ONE HALF MILES OUTSIDE OF OUR BOUNDARIES;

EITHER THE PROPERTY COMES BACK INTO OUR VILLAGE UNDER EXISTING ZONING LAWS OR IT REMAINS IN LIMBO. .

IMPORTANTLY, THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL LARGE TRACTS OF BARRINGTON HILLS LAND LIKELY TO BE FOR SALE. IT IS THUS NECESSARY FOR US TO HOLD OUR STAND AND SET THE PRECEDENT THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR 5 ACRE HORSE COUNTRY ZONING. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, IF WE ARBITRATE OUR STAND AND MAKE A FAUSTIAN DEAL WITH THE DEVIL, WE WILL SET A PRECEDENT FOR DEANNEXATION AND UNLIMITED HOUSING ON OUR EVER SHRINKING BORDERS.

AND "FEATHERING" --- ARE YOU KIDDING? SOUNDS LIKE CLUSTER ZONING TO ME. YES, THE OLD ADAGE IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE: "THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN WELL THE LESSONS OF HISTORY ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT THEM".(VARIATION ON SANTAYANA)

OH, AND ABOUT THE ELECTION: VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES THAT SUPPORT THE STATUS QUO, NOT FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SELL US OUT WITH COMPROMISE THAT WILL JEOPARDIZE OUR UNIQUE WAY OF LIFE

"HAPPY TRAILS" (GENE AUTRY)

STEPHEN M HARRISON

90 HILLS AND DALES ROAD

BARRINGTON HILLS