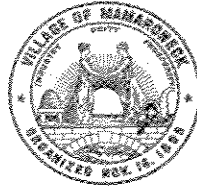


**Village of**



**Mamaroneck**

*Village Hall At The Regatta  
P.O. Box 369  
123 Mamaroneck Avenue  
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543*

OFFICE OF  
KATHLEEN SAVOLT  
MAYOR

TELEPHONE  
(914) 777-7738  
FAX NUMBER  
(914) 777-7787

July 13, 2009

Mr. George Stafford, Director  
Division of Coastal Resources  
New York State Department of State  
One Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Ave,  
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Mr. Stafford:

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Mamaroneck, I am writing this letter for the purpose of enlisting your aid and that of the Department of State in helping to prevent future serious cumulative flooding impacts to the Village of Mamaroneck, a long established LWRP Community, from upstream development projects.

As you well know, for years the Village of Mamaroneck has been the recipient of flood waters from the 32 square miles of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers and the Beaver Swamp Brook watersheds into the Village proper and then into our Harbor and Long Island Sound. This riverine flooding has, over the years, caused disastrous damage to our Village – culminating in the most recent back to back flood events of March and April 2007.

It is for this very reason that, back in the early 1980s, in order to better control our own environmental destiny, we petitioned and were granted permission by the Department of State to let us redefine our inland coastal boundary as being the same as our political and geographic boundaries. Since DOS approval of our LWRP in June 1986, there has been mounting pressure to develop every square inch of real estate in the watersheds.

The subsequent individual site-specific covering over of previously undeveloped land with impervious surfaces has led to a severe cumulative impact in our downstream area. One of the consequences of this flooding has been erosion of river banks and a speedup of siltation in the lower reaches of our reservoirs and rivers as well as our Harbor and, eventually, Long Island Sound. As we understand it, this upstream development, especially where Federal or NYS permitting is required, mandates compliance with NYS DOS Coastal Policies as they relate to flooding in approved LWRP communities. Therefore, any upstream flooding potential would have to undergo a Consistency Review and be mitigated to the greatest extent practicable before

receiving the necessary permits to proceed. However, in order to protect ourselves, we need the help of the DOS to insure that New York State and Federal policies are strictly followed.

The Village of Mamaroneck, the County of Westchester, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the US Army Corps of Engineers and Congresswoman Nita Lowey's office are working together on an analysis of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake River watersheds. Hopefully, this analysis will commence soon and we will be on our way to alleviating major flooding in the Village of Mamaroneck. Unfortunately, any mitigation efforts that we take as a result of these studies may be erased by poorly regulated upstream development.

Meanwhile, here in the Village of Mamaroneck, we are doing what we can, including reviewing and strengthening our current relevant local codes, implementing disaster preparedness plans and seriously pursuing a grant to update our LWRP. As a government, we are also weighing in on proposed upstream development in our watershed areas as best we can in light of Home Rule laws.

Currently, there are at least three active proposals that we are aware of (listed below) for subdivisions upriver in both Harrison and Scarsdale. We have either already requested designation as an interested agency pursuant to the NYS SEQRA or in the process of doing so. (In addition, there is a serious possibility that a 120 acre golf course property in White Plains that lies within the upper reaches of the Mamaroneck River watershed and contains significant fresh water wetlands areas will face bankruptcy/liquidation and a subsequent pressure to develop as housing.)

The three current projects, all in different stages in the land use approval process, are:

1. Harrison: Falcon Group Subdivision – development of former ski slope overlooking Silver Lake. Last month, the Harrison Planning Board accepted a revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our understanding of the proposed project is that, at this time, the developer is not proposing any storm water retention on site.
2. Harrison: Harrison Hamlets (350 Mamaroneck Avenue) – subdivision of 10 acres including steep slopes adjacent to Mamaroneck River. Last month, the Harrison Planning Board accepted the Sketch Plan and scheduled a public hearing on the subdivision application. At this time, the project engineer, Leonard Jackson, is not proposing any storm water retention.
3. Scarsdale: 465 Mamaroneck Road – subdivision of 11 acres along Mamaroneck River that includes a 0.7 acre retention pond and .33 acres of wetlands. This project is before the Scarsdale Planning Board which has indicated it is merely updating a 1986 subdivision/site plan approval.

The appropriate contact persons for the two municipalities regarding these three applications are as follows:

Harrison: Rosemarie Cusumano, Planning and Zoning Department, 1 Heineman Pl,  
Harrison, NY 10528 rcusumano@harrison-ny.gov

Scarsdale: Liz Marrinan, Village Planner, 1001 Post Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583  
emarrinan@scarsdale.com

We believe that the above mentioned projects, because of their sensitive locations in our watersheds, will require wetlands permits from the NYS – DEC and very possibly from the USACE.

Thank you for considering to review and to provide any expertise assistance in these matters. Your support for the Village of Mamaroneck and its LWRP has been much appreciated in the past and we look forward to your support for what I believe to be our mutual goals. Please advise us as to what steps we need to take in order to assist you in helping us.

Please feel free to contact me or my office at any time.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Savolt

cc: Taylor Palmer, Congresswoman Lowey's office  
Richard Slingerland, Village Manager  
Village of Mamaroneck Trustees  
Village of Mamaroneck Harbor and Coastal Zone Management Commission  
Village of Mamaroneck Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee  
Margaret (Peg) Duke, Permits Division, NYSDEC, New Paltz, NY  
Jody McDonald, U.S.A.C.E.  
Commissioner Gerald Mulligan, Westchester County