

# Tiger Graham

March 20, 2020

1. Residential neighborhoods are feeling the impact of frequent short term rentals via Air B'n'B and VRBO among other social media outlets. The Village Code regulates single family residence short-term rentals to two two-week periods in any year. Would you use this provision to regulate Air B'n'B and VRBO? If not, why not? If so, how would you enforce this regulation?

Protecting the character of our neighborhoods and the peace and quiet of our residents deserve is one of my highest priorities. In May of 2019, I gave the Village Administrator a list of properties advertised for short term rental in the Village of East Hampton with the understanding that the home owners would be sent a letter reiterating the Village Code on short term rentals. If we do not regulate this activity, it will only increase, which negatively impacts the residential character of our neighborhoods. I have proposed "tiering" the type of rental and regulating them separately. For example, I would loosen the regulations on "owner occupied, and owner present" properties to a limited number of one week minimum stays, and the "owner not resident" properties would have to adhere to the current code. I would also suggest that we piggyback on the Town's rental registry, and have Code Enforcement inspect the properties at least annually

2. The Village Comprehensive Plan, which helps to guide development in the Village was adopted in 2002. As adopted, the Village agreed with a key recommendation to produce a new Comprehensive Plan by 2022. What is your position on updating the Plan? And, if so, what specific recommendations would you seek to include in this update?

I believe in the major guiding themes outlined in the Comprehensive Plan; preserving the village's neighborhoods and historic character, supporting commercial needs, protecting the natural resources, providing for transportation needs, providing residents with facilities and services, and working with the Town of East Hampton, are still very relevant. The world is a very different place in 2020 than it was in 2002. Transportation, Communication, Commerce, just about every single facet of our daily lives has changed. Parking, commuting, and working have been revolutionized by the Internet. We need to revisit all 279 pages of the Village Comprehensive Plan and make sure that we are addressing today's issues with today's sensibilities and technology.

3. Deer tick bites often come with other co-infections like babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, etc. In our area, there are more Lone Star ticks than deer ticks yielding greater numbers of the alphasal meat allergy & ehrlichiosis cases. We have more ticks than ever and Lyme is still the number one tick-borne infection in the country. What do you propose to control the tick disease epidemic?.

Deer are one of the most important vectors for ticks in the Village. In addition to the reduction in the herd, we should also investigate trapping ticks and their larvae. Carbon Dioxide traps have apparently proven effective with dry ice as the source of the CO2 (ticks are drawn to it) and sticky tape as the trapping method. You can see what ticks you are trapping as well. I am not a big fan of tick pesticide as it can affect other animals.



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4. The Village Preservation Society has been concerned about the growing deer population in the Village and its surrounds. Deer are a scientifically accepted vector in the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Several years ago, the Society proposed sterilization for the Village as middle ground to doing nothing or a baited cull. What do you propose to control the deer population? Do you endorse culling? Do you endorse sterilization?

I have long maintained that we suffer an overpopulation of Deer in the Village. Wildlife experts have said that the proper density for white tailed deer is between 15 and 25 animals per square mile. By most estimates, we have about 450 deer in our 4.9 square miles, so you can see that we are way overpopulated. The Village has engaged a bow-hunting consultant who has had great success on other South Fork Villages, we expect our first report some time in April.

Sterilization, which can be effective if continued over a period of many years, is also quite expensive, and many in the Village ridiculed the "earring" with which the sterilized deer were marked. A quiet bow-hunting cull on private property promises more effective population control to manage the Village Herd to an ecologically sustainable size.

5. Aircraft noise is a big quality of life issue for Village residents, as well as communities all over the East End. How do you propose to address aircraft noise impacts on Village residents? When legally possible, what is your position on closing the airport?

Aircraft Noise effects every corner of the village, and it always seems to be worse on summer weekends. Recent developments in helicopter routing promise some relief (if the operators follow through), and I am hopeful that the adjustments in traffic patterns for jets and helicopters will go a long way to reduce the obnoxious noise that the airport can generate.

While there is little that Village officials can do about the airport directly, I would use my influence, working with the Town Board, to encourage all flight operators to strenuously follow safe noise reduction routes.

I am not, nor have I ever been in favor, of closing the airport. I believe the facility is important to our local economy, in addition to being a site for emergency medical evacuation.

6. What role, if any, does local zoning play in relationship to nitrogen loading and other challenges to ground and surface water purity? What will you do to monitor and protect our water resources? What is your position on dredging Town Pond?

The Village recently passed legislation requiring that new construction or substantial renovation necessitates the installation of low nitrogen I/A Septic systems. We are in the planning stages of a municipal wastewater treatment facility for the commercial core to replace the hodgepodge of outdated septic in the Village core. These steps will help improve groundwater substantially.

The Village will soon be accepting bids for the first phase of dredging town pond, probably starting in the fall of 2020.

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7. The Village has long served as the cultural, commercial, educational and religious center of Town. The congestion these uses create can have a negative impact on the quality of life for Village residents. What steps would you take to mitigate this problem?

Most of the referenced congestion comes to the Village Core, with some residential congestion attracted to Church Services. We have a committee planned with the Town to study traffic patterns at the Town/Village borders (think of the southbound Accobonac Road stop sign at Collins Ave, near the IGA). We are also in the initial stages of discussing a roundabout at the Buell/Dunemere/Rt 27 intersection.

8. Widening the Stephen Hands Path trestle, has long been on the VPS LIRR wish list. Renovating that trestle would route truck traffic around the Village, particularly as trucks heading north on both North Main St and Accabonac Rd, are headed into the northern reaches of Town. What will you do to address this issue for Village residents?

The Village, in conjunction with the town is discussing limiting the left turn for trucks onto North Main Street from 27, and Accobonac Road will be closed to trucks (except for local delivery). Widening and raising the Steven Hands Path bridge, while improving safety for vehicular traffic, might just move truck traffic to Cedar Street. It is unfortunate that the Village bypass was not built when it was possible to do it.

9. Our communities are particularly vulnerable to coastal erosion, sea level rise and extreme weather events. While Village beaches are included in the Town-wide coastal area resilience study, we are very much an add-on. Would you have the Village fund a study of Village dunes and beaches to assess their condition? What use would you make of the results of such a study?

The Village is concerned about the effects of sea level rise, coastal erosion and extreme weather events. We just signed on to the Town's Coastal Area Resiliency Plan (CARP) at a budget cost of \$13,000. This study will examine erosion risks, storm vulnerability, and expected degree of natural recovery along our ocean shoreline.

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10. With McMansions scattered in neighborhoods with more modest homes, how should neighborhood character be treated within the zoning code? Is it desirable to achieve a balance and how would you do so under zoning?

While not being an expert in these specialized issues, I think that a look at the totality of our residential zoning code should be on the agenda. The issue of "Massing", a trademark of the McMansion, is an issue that the code has a hard time handling. I would appoint a committee of attorneys, architects, residents, and the Village Planner to review the code and make recommendations. The Town has a "pyramid law", perhaps as a rework of the code, that may help us keep the Village Character intact. As you remember, some time ago the Village looked at the large lots, perhaps its time to look at the smaller lots.

11. What businesses do you think contribute the most to the economy of the Village? What steps would you take to encourage these businesses?

East Hampton is a resort community, and we need to provide resort amenities to our residents. Currently the shops generate revenue the convenience stores generate revenue, as does the entertainment sector. When we are able to add ore "wet uses" to the Village, I imagine that we will see more restaurants open in the Village, engendering a more robust night life in the Village core. Anyone that wants to open a business will always find a helping ear. As many of you know, the Village has hired a consultant to look into the feasibility of a wastewater treatment facility. This will improve water quality (as many of the septic systems in the commercial core are failing), enable us to have more restaurants, cafes, and apartments on the 2nd floor of the shops, which are not currently permitted due to septic flow issues. This will be a monumental undertaking for the village which will involve methodical planning and public participation. We also need to remain mindful of the impact of our actions on the construction trades and supporting companies in our Village

12. Village residents remain concerned about the way PSEG-LI commandeered the public right of way to replace utility poles with larger, more toxic versions of what had been there for 60 years, allegedly to strengthen storm resistance, when it is clear that burying the lines is the proper solution. How will you negotiate the 'monster pole' issue? Please be specific.

Although I was not on the Board for the inception of the PSEG project in 2013, I wholeheartedly want to address and solve this problem. It is a travesty what happened to our small quaint neighborhood and I am determined to find an amenable solution for all. As one of the two Village Board members on the "Pole Committee" I have identified two methods that would reduce the pole height on King and McGuirk Streets without needing to place a "Monster Pole" on Cooper or in the Town. Due to "social distancing" concerns, we have not been able to meet as a committee, but we have had a Zoom conference call to start the process. We currently have the two proposals in front of PSEG, and we are actively looking at other ideas. Obviously, we will be looking for a lot of community involvement as well.

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12. Enforcement of laws that govern inappropriate signage, contractor parking on roadsides that rut the grasses and kill native plants, have a direct impact on Village residential life. How will your administration work to better enforce existing regulations to prevent this type of degradation to neighborhood character? What will you do to ensure that the Public Works Department is responsive to repairing this damage?

We have legislation on the books, it remains a matter of enforcement and education. Since we passed the landscaper legislation last year that went into effect on January first, I would suggest that the landscaping crews will be easier to track. If a resident sees a landscaping truck or trailer parked on the grass, they should note the permit number, and perhaps snap a picture on their phone, and report it to code enforcement or the Village Police. I guarantee that when a landscaper has to pay a fine AND repair the damage, they will be a lot more careful where they park. Like maybe the homeowner's driveway. We appreciate our beautiful surroundings and will continue to work with the DPW to ensure it stays that way. Many of you have probably noticed the recent revegetation and re-seeding projects of the DPW along many of our roadsides including James Lane, Egypt Lane and Newtown Lane and we will continue these improvement efforts

13. Many Village streets have very poor drainage, especially in the western area. What will you do to address this?

We are aware of the problem. In some spots like Egypt Lane by Further lane, DPW was able to regrade the shoulder to greatly improve the standing water in the roads. In other places, it is that the drains are clogged. DPW does a great job at keeping the open, but since the retirement of our "Vac All" truck this task has become more difficult. I pledge to make sure that our Village DPW has the equipment they need to do the jobs before them.

It really boils down to the fact that, in most cases, Drainage = Money, and we need to prioritize.

14. What is your approach to public participation in government?

I pledge to listen to every opinion about the Village from everyone, not just Village Residents. I will have regular office hours, and if someone wants to talk with me on a weekend. I will make myself available. I pledge to listen to every opinion with RESPECT, I may disagree, and you may change my mind. I sincerely hope that when someone gives me their opinion, they walk away from the encounter with the impression that I listened, and that I gave the attention to their thoughts. As they say, "Who knows? I may learn something".

