

Jerry Larsen

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?

I am not in favor of allowing short term rentals. I believe the village code of not less than a 30 day rental except for 2-two week rentals in a year is acceptable. However, I will raise the fines for these types of violations as a deterrent. Short term rentals may be disruptive to the neighbors, negatively effect local Inns/B&B's and negatively effect the local real estate business. I will also be creating an office of tourism/business that will work as a liaison with our local business community. This office will also work with our code enforcement and law enforcement to educate homeowners and locate violators.

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 think the village comprehensive plan is a wonderful idea and document. I compliment all of the residents that assisted in its creation. However, the plan was supposed to be updated in 2012 and it was was not done. Once in office I will immediately begin to create a committee to start work on a new plan to be completed by 2022. This document will guide us in the direction residents see as the future of the village. I hope to see included in the plan the creation of affordable work space and work-force housing.

3. Deer tick bites often come with other co-infections like babeseosis, erhlicchiosis, tuleremia, etc. In our area, there are more Lone Star ticks than deer ticks yielding greater numbers of the alphagal 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?.

In order to control the diseases that ticks transmit we obviously need to reduce the number of ticks. This may be done in a number of ways. First, since most people believe we have a deer population problem, that needs to be confirmed. If that is true we will reduce the deer population thereby reducing the number of hosts for the adult ticks. We also need to reduce the density of the rodent population where its is believed the ticks obtain the bacterium that causes Lyme disease.

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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 am aware that the VPS sponsored the sterilization program that the village authorized in 2014, with all the right intentions. I was the village Police Chief when this program was initiated. I witnessed first-hand how barbaric and inhumane this process was. Most of the deer were pregnant and this procedure killed the fetus at the time of the procedure and later when the deer attempted to give birth, in some cases it killed the mother in an excruciating painful death. I will call for a scientific deer count to confirm what we suspect, that the village has an over population of deer. If that is confirmed I support a procedure that injects a contraceptive drug into the doe that will reduce the deer population over time. I will not support a cull at this time. The village has not done anything about this issue for six years. If this process had already been started, we may have seen a reduction in the deer population today.

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?

I do not support closing the airport. I do support reasonable time restrictions for flights. Just recently it was agreed to alter the flight pattern to avoid the village. I will work with East Hampton Town and the FAA to bring reasonable flight time restrictions.

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 has recently changed the zoning code to require IA septic systems on new residential construction and substantial residential renovations, I agree with these important zoning changes. The village also funded the Hook Pond and Town Pond water quality study which was completed in 2016. The study recommended that both ponds be dredged to improve water quality. However, the village did not apply for a DEC permit to dredge Town Pond until April 2019, they were approved by the DEC in June 2019. The RFP to do this work was not issued until March 5, 2020. These delays are unacceptable.



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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?

When I was the Village Chief of Police we encountered a traffic congestion problem on Newtown Lane. There were so many cars with parents dropping off their children in front of the middle school in the morning and a similar problem in the afternoon with picking up their children. This condition was worse in bad weather. Cars were double parked and children were walking between cars on the street and therefore created a safety issue. Working with the school, we were able to move the parent pick up and drop off to the rear of the school where we could accommodate more vehicles. We moved the buses to the front. This was a common sense solution, as the buses were always a consistent number, while the number of parent vehicles were always changing. Working together with the school administration, we were able to reduce congestion and the safety concern on Newtown Lane with a very simple plan. During my tenure as Chief of Police, I have never been aware of an on-going traffic problem involving a religious center. When large events are held, the police department will assist and assign police and/or traffic officers to lessen the impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

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?

This is probably a moot point since the village board, (Barbara Borsack, Arthur Graham and Rick Lawler) requested the LIRR to raise the bridge on North Main Street and Accabonac Road so that large trucks could use these roads. This project has just been completed at a cost of 21 million dollars. On April 2, 2020 at a village board work session (Barbara Borsack, Arthur Graham and Richard Lawler) are considering banning trucks from these roads. If this action is approved on May 15, 2020 it will cause trucks to use many of the village residential roads and cause even more problems for residents. Did they not realize by raising the bridges that more trucks would use those streets? This is government asleep at the wheel! At this stage it would be a safety issue to send large trucks down small narrow roads with no shoulders endangering joggers and bike riders.

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?

I agree that that the village is just an add-on to the town study. I think it is very important that we conduct our own study as it will help in making important decisions when updating the village zoning code and comprehensive plan.

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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?

I agree that we need to find a reasonable balance with relationship of lot/home size. As mayor, I will appoint a committee of experts in this field to work on finding that correct balance. I believe the size of the home should be in proportion to the building lot.

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

I believe that our restaurants probably bring the most economy to the village. I believe they employ the most people as a whole. I plan on creating an office of business/tourism which will be a liaison between village government and local business. This office will assist local businesses and government to work together to help businesses succeed.

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.

This is a major issue in my campaign. Let's be clear, PSEG-LI did not commandeer the public right of way on King Street or McGuirk Street. The village granted permission (called a road opening permit) to PSEG-LI to install those huge utility poles in 2013, (Barbara Borsack and Richard Lawler). The village board again agreed in 2019 to allow the Monster pole to be installed on Cooper Lane without informing the residents of Cooper lane. (Barbara Borsack, Arthur Graham and Richard Lawler). This has now caused animosity between the residents of King Street, McGuirk Street and Cooper Lane. That is not how village government should represent our residents. As mayor, I will work with all residents, the town board and PSEG-LI in hopes of finding a solution that will be agreeable to all of our neighbors.



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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?

The damage that is caused by vehicles parking on village owned grass right of ways is concerning and costly to repair. Contractors should be educated as to what the parking requirements are when a building permit is issued. The overnight parking regulation also needs to be changed. Currently you may park your vehicle overnight if it is in a marked parking space. If it is on a street with no markings the vehicle may be parked off the paved portion of the street, which usually means on the grass. This is counterproductive. Under my administration vehicles will not be allowed to park on any village owned grass, thereby reducing damage. Let's keep vehicles on the pavement.

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

These areas will be identified by the village's very capable highway department. If the drainage problem cannot be rectified by landscaping, then the solution, if costly, will be budgeted for.

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

I think one of the most important things we can do as politicians is to encourage as much public participation in government as possible. The more ideas the better. As Mayor, I will hold village board work sessions each month at one of our historic sites and historic Inns in the village. I will do this in an attempt to educate the public about the wonderful history of our village. This will also encourage more residents to participate in village government.