

To: The Trustees and President of The Village of Barrington Hills

From: Gwynne Johnston, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Health, Village of Barrington Hills

Effect of grazing density on sub-surface water Quality

Dear Trustees,

It has come to our attention that certain statements are being attributed to policies and positions of the Board of Health in regard to the effects of grazing density on the quality of sub-surface water within the Village. Specifically, we are being told that the Board of Health maintains a position that there is no effect of grazing density, specifically in regard to horses, on sub-surface water quality. This is a false statement and totally mis-represents the position of the Board of Health.

Approximately 15 months ago, the Board of Health reviewed water quality data from BACOG. At the same time, we received correspondence requesting a ruling on horse density in regards to the effect on sub-surface water quality. After review, it was the unanimous decision of the Board of Health that we could not rule on horse density, even if we had the authority, because we had and still do not have specific data to support any short or long term effects on water quality. Our Board is unanimous in its concerns about any potential threats to the health and quality of life of residents in the Village. As a result, we debated several options for securing water quality data from BACOG or other sources that would permit a correlation between water quality and density of animal/horse grazing. These options included the possibilities for financial incentives to residents that would support the accumulation of specific water quality data and mapping on a long term basis. All of the options considered to date have been considered "too difficult" due to privacy concerns or legal exposure of the Village. We continue to search for options.

So the position of the Board of Health, in regard to the effect of horse density on sub-surface water quality, is that we have no data to support any effect, either positive or negative, on water quality. We continue to look for ways in which we might obtain this data and remain concerned that our vigilance must be to protect and sustain the long term quality of health and the environment within the Village.

We welcome your discussion and guidance in regards to this topic and, specifically, any suggestions whereby we might, as a Village, start to collect data that can be used to guide policy decisions.

October 23, 2014