Dear President McLaughlin and Board of Trustees:

Attention: Anna Paul, Village Clerk

Please forward this letter to all of the above.

As summer ends, you might have noticed an unusual number of dead or dying trees in the village. Perhaps you saw a gradual decline of your neighbor's trees, or maybe you were puzzled why the trees on your own property were ailing w/numerous dead braches.

The culprit is the emerald ash borer an aggressive pest that is threatening these majestic trees. One of things we take great pride in our village is our vast canopy of beautiful trees. We formed the Heritage Tree Ordinance for the expressed purpose of protecting rare trees from harm or total extinction. As a 14 year resident and a homeowner, we all have a invested interest in keeping these trees healthy for generations to come. In my subdivision alone, there are an untold number of dead trees indicating that this problem continues to be an active threat.

The signs of the disease include the unusual presence of woodpecker damage or obvious pecking holes, D-shaped beetle exit holes in the bark, and shoots growing from roots or a tree's trunk. Canopy dieback is a clear indication that a pest issue is active and present. An EAB infestation is always fatal to ash trees. Infested trees decline from the top down and will be dead in 1-3 years if left untreated. Some attempts were made by the previous administration in 2008, and current administration broached this topic in 2013; but the scope and execution of the plan must be reworked. The issue has fallen dormant, but the beetle's damage has not.

Years ago, many adjacent communities including Algonquin, Lake in the Hills and South Barrington responded and waged a campaign and were successful in controlling the outbreak. Des Plaines has a comprehensive management plan to battle this bug. We, however, have not followed suit in that regard. We applied more of a bandage approach. We need an educational campaign in place, and the village should provide resources and ongoing communication with residents to outline the tragic consequences of homeowners not removing already infested and dead trees. As long as the infected trees remain; all other trees on their property and their neighbors' are at risk as well. The role of the Heritag Environs is to recognize potential problems such as this, bring it to the attention of staff, and seek out manageable solutions so that every effort can be made to minimize and eliminate these threats.

The University of Illinois Extension website contains valuable information and photos to help homeowners identify whether their trees are in fact infested with the emerald ash borer. I would like our village to post the link on our website as well as dedicate space in the next newsletter on this subject so residents are aware of the damage this pest can pose to their own trees. There are some simple insecticidal approaches homeowners can take which can help control or retard the problem before it's too late.

Skeltonized dead trees should be the exception not the rule. If we say we value our trees and the benefits they provide, beyond their beauty, then inaction and time are the enemies. It would be horrible if we let these trees die, as it takes three generations, or about 50-70 years to replace just one. The loss of these trees in terms of dollars and cents will be staggering if nothing more is done. I am informing you of this problem once more and ask you to begin a serious

collaboration and dialogue with other agencies to assist us in managing the eradication of this beetle. And finally, our village should be leaders on issues like this; not just followers.

Our first committee meeting convenes September 15, 2015 it is sure to be a topic for our membership to debate in more detail. I am requesting that this topic be placed on the agenda in the e-packet for discussion at next September's board meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Linda H. Cools

Heritage and Environs Committee VBH

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