

To: The Mastic Beach Village Board

Village Clerk Alevas

From: The Mastic Beach Village Quality of Life Committee

Date: November 17, 2015

Re: Report of Recent Activities and Discussions

We thank the Board, and specifically Mayor Sperry and Trustee Snyder, for their role in the recent Suffolk Transit bus stop changes which had been recommended by the Committee. In conjunction with those changes, we recommend that bicycle racks be installed at bus stops where sidewalks permit.

Moving on to other areas of concern, in the Committee's continuing efforts to identify both blighted homes and structures in need of demolition, we request a list of the homes that have been identified as "blighted" and their current status with the village. We request this in order to avoid the duplication of the excellent efforts being made by Public Safety. We also request a list of homes that Village Public Safety has identified as "illegal rentals," along with their current status, again to avoid duplication of efforts. We understand that there have been at least 52 homes designated as "blighted" and another 36 identified within the last 2 1/2 months as "illegal rentals."

Next, the quality of life on our main streets continues to be a major concern to us:

1. The "Five Corners" intersection at Neighborhood Road, Mastic Road, Cranberry Drive and Bayview Drive is an embarrassment to the community and is fraught with safety issues. The illegal use of the vacant lot as a parking lot on the southwest corner poses both traffic and environmental hazards. The vacant and fenced lot behind it is not being mowed and maintained. Also, there is little or no traffic and parking control in and around the service station on the southeast corner. Members have added concerns that the junkyard behind the station is an environmental problem because of vehicle storage and an apparent outdoor vehicle lift.
2. Too many commercial dumpsters are not enclosed and secured. "Dumpster divers" and the ensuing messes are not conducive to an attractive and vibrant commercial district. We are also concerned with "clothing drop bins." Do they meet Village Code? Are they being maintained and emptied in a timely fashion? Are they being located in areas that are both safe for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and aesthetically pleasing?
3. Who is responsible for cleaning sidewalks in front businesses? Sand, leaf debris, litter, and snow need to be cleared regularly.

4. The vehicle storage lot at the north entrance to Mastic Beach on Mastic Road is an aesthetic and environmental concern. The property was originally a service station that provided both fuel and repair services. There was no long-range storage that filled the entire lot as there is now. The current lot is loaded with vehicles, many not even registered, and is located adjacent to sensitive wetlands.

5. Too many empty commercial buildings are not being maintained. They are a blight on the commercial district.

6. The commercial district problems are so overwhelming that we believe it is time for the Village to call a "Main Street Summit" to address the myriad issues. The Summit should invite all business and commercial property owners, the Chamber of Commerce, all Village citizen committees, and all civic groups and leaders to organize and employ existing resources in reviving our main streets.

Finally, the Mastic peninsula has insufficient traffic arteries for both normal rush hour and potential emergency evacuation traffic. Both Wm. Floyd Parkway and Mastic Road clog twice daily by the LIRR crossings. Imagine the crisis that would ensue in an evacuation. The Village needs to encourage the County, Town, and LIRR to find a solution and not be put off again. They created the problems, and they must find solutions. Tell their leaders to imagine that their families live here!

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to these concerns.