

Barbara Taragan

August 25, 2014

To: The Shelter Island Town Board

Re: The Tolkin Wetland and Special Permit Applications

Dear Town Board Members:

I strongly urge you not to grant a variance for the building of the proposed structures for 6 Charlie Lane. I have been a Shelter Islander as a visitor, renter, and for the past 18 years, a homeowner. I understand and respect the Island's philosophy of live and let live. It is part of the reason I enjoy being here.

That laissez-fair attitude is fine for most things we do on the island. However, not when it comes to protecting our already fragile environment. For that, we are depending upon you to protect us. To keep salt water out of our water supply. To keep the waterways free of sewage and fertilizers and medications. To prevent algae blooms. To prevent flooding during storms by protecting our wetlands.

Why now more than ever? Clearly the recent Hurricane Sandy salt water intrusion in Silver Beach, where I live, is just one sign of a huge problem. One that will take the whole community to make sacrifices in order to solve.

I happen to be a science teacher in an elementary school. We teach our fourth graders to think of future generations as they make decisions about using resources. I am calling on you to do the same and lead Shelter Islanders so that we can together protect this island that we love.

Sincerely,

Barbara Taragan

P.S. Here is part of the Iroquois Constitution that we share with our fourth grade students:

...Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground – the unborn of the future Nation.

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