

# Ray Harden

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'm concerned about this, it's not fair to residents who enjoy the peace and quiet of our village to have deal with this. Not that all who do Air B'n'B' and VRBO are a problem but the potential is there. Code enforcement is a key to this. Rental registry would also help with this.

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 totally agree with a new comprehensive plan, we need to work on a plan that works for both commercial and residential, traffic is one thing that should be looked at.

3. Deer tick bites often come with other co-infections like babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, 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?

Lyme disease is very serious to people who get it. I have seen this really cripple people for a long period of time. I would be in favor in expanding the hunting under permit to help alleviate the problem.

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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?

If there is a way to have a balance of the two I would be all for it.

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?

The airport brings a lot of money into our community and we rely on that to help keep people employed. I think closing it would be a mistake. Putting limits on air traffic would be a way to help with the noise.

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 first step was the new low nitrogen septic systems, I think this is a huge step to make things better. I think town pond should be dredged. The zoning has been a big part of what residents can and can't do with regards to plantings along the ponds.

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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?

Traffic is a big deal for everyone in the summer, I think we need to look at ways to make traffic flow better, possibly limiting left hand turns during the summer months.

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?

I would be in favor of widening and raising the trestle, anything that would make traffic move better I would support.

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 would look at the town wide coastal study first and then determine if we need to move forward with our own study.

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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 feel that everyone likes to "max out" their property in terms of the size of their house. We see people coming to the zoning board looking for a variance after they have already started construction looking to add more. I think the zoning board does a very good job keeping this in check.

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

On line shopping is putting a damper on villages everywhere. High rent is also a problem for small businesses to survive. With high rent comes high prices for merchandise and I feel that most locals are blue collar workers who go elsewhere to shop. We cannot control the rent costs.

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.

I feel this is an uphill battle but something we need to continue to fight. We need to be face to face with the utilities and try to work on this together to come up with an agreement.

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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 village has started on this already with requiring contractors to fence the trees along the road in front of the construction sites. Not every site can hold all the construction vehicles unfortunately at one time so parking in the street is necessary. Parking should all be on one side of the street. No C of O should be issued until any ruts are taken care of by the contractor.

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

This is something the highway superintendent should be working on and putting in for money in the budget to either repair, replace, or add. There are many areas that need to be addressed and I would push the make this happen.

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

I'm all for public participation, talking through issues can make them get solved quicker. Elected officials work for the residents.

