



GRASSROOTS
Environmental Education

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June 29, 2023

Board of Trustees
Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Plandome Manor
55 Manhasset Avenue
Manhasset, NY 11030

Ladies and gentlemen,

Grassroots Environmental Education is an award-winning environmental health non-profit organization with principal offices in Port Washington. We are writing to you with grave concerns regarding the health and future of Leeds Pond.

All natural bodies of water need to be protected from the uninformed and ignorant efforts of humans to "improve" them by creating unnatural lawnsapes that go to right the water's edge, removing natural buffer areas that provide sanctuary for marine animals and aquatic species, and "filling in" shallow areas to accommodate a homeowner's desire for more property or a different topography than the one designed by nature.

The latter, we understand, is the rationale being used to support the dumping of hundreds of yards of "fill" material at a property bordering Leeds Pond, changing the natural landscape to allow for additional development, and in the process, putting the health of the entire pond in jeopardy.

We understand that lax oversight in the past has led to small but significant degradations in the natural health of the pond that will need to be addressed, but that itself is no excuse to condone or excuse further environmental damage that may prove to be costly for all the residents of Plandome Manor.

Leeds Pond is a gift to the people of Plandome Manor, not an inconvenience to be altered by a new property owner or developer. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to demand the removal of all recently imported "fill" material, deny any zoning variance that negatively impacts the health of the pond, and protect and respect the gift you have been given.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Wood
Executive Director