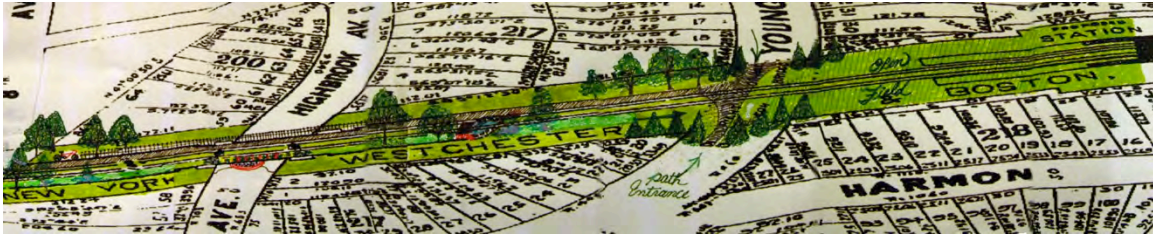


The Highbrook Highline, by Susan Mutti



The Highbrook Highline is a proposal developed by The Friends of the Highbrook Highline (FHH) to convert the entire NYW&B parcel located in Pelhamwood into usable green space for the community, without adding to the Village's tax burden. Susan Mutti, who is running on the Pelham Village Party and Republican lines, is one of the one of the founding members of FHH.

Progress toward an options paper for the Village board has been limited under the leadership of the current trustees who oversee a Village citizens' committee.

The property represents 22% of Pelham's open space and is eligible for historic listing. Mrs. Mutti has coordinated the application process, appearing before organizations and has donated her time with other citizens to provide research and write grant applications. The value of the donated work from committee members is approximately \$15,000-20,000. Additionally, Mrs. Mutti has spoken to the founders of the NYC High Line about this concept. Historical listing would increase grant opportunities, which are key to the long-term economic sustainability of the project.

The bridge architect is Alfred Fellheimer whose structural design work is found at Grand Central. From the eligibility letter, "During the line's peak years of operation, the largely commuter population of Pelham nearly quadrupled, creating what many have described as *New York City's first true bedroom community.*"

The Junior League of Pelham awarded the FHH a grant to re-open Young Avenue Field, which had been closed for years. Mrs. Mutti was instrumental in expediting this process while helping the village realize significant cost savings. She helped organize the day of planting with donated resources and initiated correspondence with the Village's engineering consultants to replace the costly restoration estimate with a repair to safety approach. Restoration was never a goal of the FHH. This economy simply cannot support it. The bridge is structurally sound, and work recently completed has removed the danger of falling concrete.

Mrs. Mutti is frustrated with the lack of leadership in determining the use of this property. It is time for results oriented leadership.

The goal is to reclaim the Village's unused open land and create a walking woodland trail for Pelham residents. The Highbrook Bridge Highline trail, joined to the already reopened grass meadow, will provide vital open space in Pelham This will add significantly to adjacent real estate values and provide an attractive feature to a quarter of Pelham sorely lacking in open green space.

Vote the Pelham Village Party Candidates on March 19th
Tim Cassidy, Mike Volpe, Susan Mutti and Joe Senerchia

