

September 26, 2012

Pelham Village Board of Trustees-

We are encouraged by the Modjeski & Masters engineering report of May 4, 2012, outlining lower cost options for opening the balance of the NYW&B parcel to the public. The higher cost estimate of restoration (reported in a Pelham Weekly article on Aug. 10th) was never a goal of ours; we have been advocating bringing the bridge to safety, a significantly less expensive option. In order to implement a sensible lower cost approach, we would like to work with the Pelham Village Board of Trustees and M&M to fully explore this lower cost remediation to safety. This estimate can then be included in the committee options report currently being drafted for submission to the Board of Trustees.

We look forward to the implementation of the safety measures outlined in M&M's report, including concrete removal to "virtually eliminate the potential of loose concrete falling on the sidewalk or roadway" to be completed by the end of October. And we were encouraged by the following: "...arch is in good condition, showing no signs of structural instability."

M&M also recommended contract plans, which, if prepared, would allow us to apply for additional grants. It is worth noting that the cost of opening this space is much less than the rehabilitation budget for Wolfs Lane Park.

Our goal is to continue to leverage volunteers, donations and grants to expand on our work in opening Young Avenue Field this past spring. We have been working for two years researching how to create a neighborhood-friendly green space wholly consistent with the 2008 Village Master Plan and Greenway Compact Community Legislation adopted by the Pelham Village Board of Trustees in 2008.

We believe a green way is an investment in this property for future generations that will also enhance real estate values in the community. Our research demonstrating this concept will be included in the committee options report.

This bridge and the entire two-acre parcel have been declared eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in the categories of social history and artistic design. Please visit our website and Facebook page for more information.

www.highbrookhighline.com www.facebook.com/highbrook

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cc: The Pelham Weekly