

Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, at Town Hall, Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Tuesday, January 12, 1999, at 7:00 P.M.

Present:

Vincent Villella,	Supervisor
Mark Kwasna,	Councilman
James Lull,	Councilman
Philip Cardinale,	Councilman
Christopher Kent,	Councilman

Also Present:

Barbara Grattan,	Town Clerk
Adam Grossman, Esq.,	Town Attorney

Supervisor Villella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Steve Haizlip.

This is the continuation of a public hearing opened on January 1, 1999 to consider the draft environmental impact statement prepared in support of the change of zone petition of Traditional Links LLC, property located at Sound Avenue, Baiting Hollow, New York.

Supervisor Villella: "The meeting is now open, the scoping hearing. Steve, would you please start the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Thank you, Steve. I just want to go over just a couple rules that we're going to be having tonight. There will be a five minute comment period for each person that's speaking and I don't want to hear yeahs, boos, or clapping or anything. We just want to do this the right way."

Richard Amper: "Sort of a technical presentation and I will try to be brief but we were asked to gather a lot of information in a very short period of time. I hope the five minute time wasn't too strict."

Supervisor Villella: "Dick, that's not the time. I'll take care of that situation-- the five minute period. We want to get as many speakers in as possible to speak and if the person wants to come back, we'll see how it works out. But right now five minutes is where we want to go. And the first speaker is Richard Amper. Is that why you said that?"

Richard Amper: "There's only one advantage to having your name start with "A". We're trying to supply a lot of important technical information on ecological matters. I'll go through it as quickly as I can.

The application to develop a mega-golf resort on bluffs and farmland at Baiting Hollow represents a defining moment for the Town of Riverhead. Will the town defend its scenic and rural qualities or cave into the kind of development pressures that have despoiled so much of western Long Island? Will one of the most environmentally prized features on the Long Island landscape be lost? Will the first piece of property preserved under Suffolk's landmark Farmland Preservation Program be bordered by or even become a part of a multi-million dollar development scheme? Or will it become the latest step in the preservation of the East End's historical agricultural culture?

To determine the answers to these important questions, the Town of Riverhead properly instructed the would be developers of Traditional Links to address these and more specific questions. As required under New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act, a scoping document was prepared to define the matters to be covered by the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project. Environmental and civic groups participated actively in the design of the scoping document.

Now after months of preparation, the applicant has submitted a DEIS that is false, misleading or missing critical information. We are not naive. We understand that the consultants that prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statements for developers receive lucrative contracts to provide testimony supporting the application. People like Robert Johnson and Rob Abrams are notorious for their support of environmentally undesirable projects. We did not really expect them to tell the Town Board that they should disapprove Traditional Links on environmental grounds.

We did not expect to share the developers' consultants' every opinion. What we did expect was a truthful response to the questions and issues raised in the scoping document. Neither we nor the Town of Riverhead got it. Speaker after speaker will point out the inaccurate information and omissions contained in this dreadful document. Statements fly in the face of overwhelming scientific agreement. Others misstate and mislead.

The DEIS does not adequately identify the wildlife resources at

stake. Nor does it adequately assess the impacts to those resources. Thus, the DEIS is legally deficient and the applicant should be required to prepare a supplemental EIS to cover information that is wrong of misleading.

(Given your concerns about the time, I will supply detailed documentary scientific information contained in these remarks in writing as opposed to commenting on them here but they deal with wildlife resources that are inaccurately inventoried and are simply wrong.) There's no discussion of the techniques or methodology used to inventory the species of plant and animal life found on the site. The DEIS should detail the dates the inventory took place, the hours of the day, and provide a total. What was the methodology used to assess the presence or absence of bird species, whether or not they were breeding or nesting on the property? Did they use live traps to inventory small mammals or did they just turn over logs in haphazard fashion as the DEIS suggested? Were tapes used at all for determining the absence or presence of secretive or nocturnal species such as screech owls and great horned owls? Were counts using census points utilized?

The DEIS apparently did not attempt to inventory insects species or lower plants and therefore could not discuss the adverse ecological impacts of the proposed development on those groups. This shortcoming, in conjunction with the prior concerns, certainly suggests that the DEIS did not meet "the hard look" requirements of SEQRA as they relate to the ecological resources/wildlife species found on the site.

The fauna section of the DEIS discusses northern flying squirrels as just one example. In fact, northern flying squirrels are not found on Long Island. (This is the kind of inaccurate information this Town has been presented with on a matter of extreme importance.) Southern flying squirrels are. The DEIS states, "These nocturnal rodents were notoriously hard to observe." Were they or were they not observed? The DEIS does not state this. The fauna inventory stated that deer mice were found. As a matter of fact, deer mice are not native to Long Island. Did the consultants, instead find white-footed mice?

Since much of the discussion of flora and fauna is nonspecific and generalized, in which the consultants postulates about the presence or absence of a whole host of species, we are, therefore, left in a position of being unable to assess the ecological impacts. For if these species are found on the project site, they will

undoubtedly be adversely affected by the proposed project.

The section of the DEIS dealing with birds talks about a number of forest interior species. These include species like hermit and wood thrush and red-eyed vireos and great crescent flycatcher. The presence of these species would certainly suggest that the forested portions of the subject property remain as viable habitat for these area-sensitive species and their presence suggests that the woodlands on the project site may not be as fragmented as the DEIS would have us believe.

The DEIS indicates that red-tailed hawks were observed at the site. The presence of this species suggests an adequate prey base made up of squirrels, rabbits and smaller rodents. The presence of this bird, therefore, would seem to belie the conclusion of the consultant that the property is bereft of many of these species. The same could be said about other higher trophic species, such as red fox.

A number of species of shore birds frequent sod farms. The DEIS failed to discuss whether or not many of these species utilize the parts of the project site devoted to sod, which are situated on both sides of Sound Avenue. In discussing warblers, the DEIS indicates that the myrtle warbler is one of two species that is a resident bird. It is highly unlikely that the myrtle warbler is a resident bird, since there is only one record of this species ever nesting on Long Island. These numerous and egregious errors suggest that information contained in the DEIS may not have resulted from the actual observation at all, but rather from generalized species lists or even from other environmental impact statements. In any case, much of the information contained is just plain wrong.

The DEIS fails to mention that the maritime beech forest situated in the northern part of the property (along the bluffs and dunes) has been ranked by the New York State Natural Heritage Program as a G2/1 element. This ranking means that the species is extremely rare in New York State. It is also rare globally. This element and other Natural Heritage Program elements should be identified and acknowledged in the DEIS.

The applicant's preferred alternative involves the use of the total acreage owned by the applicant and includes a 101 acre sod farm on the south side of Sound Avenue. While the DEIS cursorily mentions that a conservation easement exists on the property, it fails to

disclose that the developmental rights for the parcel have already been purchased by Suffolk County, pursuant to Suffolk's landmark Farmland Preservation Program. The DEIS also conveniently fails to discuss and assess the public policy ramifications to that program, represented by removing the easement on this property.

Alternatives, especially the "no build" alternative are meager or absent altogether. This is incredible given the unprecedented availability of state, county and town funds to acquire the Grandifolia Sandhills and the development rights to the agricultural property. There has never been a time in the history of Long Island where as much money was available for preservation than now. The State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, the Environmental Protection Fund, the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Funds, the new Greenways program and the recently approved extension of the 1/4 cent sales tax as well as the East End's Community Preservation Fund all argue for the reasonableness of preservation, instead of development.

Instead, the developers and the DEIS continue to make threats. The developer advances the alternative of hundreds of new homes - an alternative that would economically devastate Riverhead. The Talmages must be compensated for the value of their property, but Long Islanders are not obliged to destroy their environment so that a one-time farmer can make a killing.

This Town Board, so often divided along party lines, should unanimously reject the DEIS and return it to the farmer-come-developer with the demand that the town's very real questions about this excessive proposal be answered out of respect for the very important decision you will be asked to make.

The very future of Riverhead is on the line. This Town Board faces a momentous decision which will shape the future of environmental and farmland preservation for all time. The Town Board must be armed with the best and the most accurate information available in determining the fate of the Talmage holdings and even of the community character of Riverhead itself. Therefore, the applicant must be compelled to address these concerns and those of the learned and concerned citizens who are testifying before you tonight."

Supervisor Villella: "Dick, how much more do you have? Because five minutes-- "

Dick Amper: "Thirty seconds-- twenty seconds."

Supervisor Villella: "Go ahead."

Dick Amper: "The Long Island Pine Barrens Society calls on you to reject the DEIS for the proposed Traditional Links mega project as being unresponsive to the Town's scoping document and inadequate to address the environmental impacts of this enormous threat to the North Fork's quality of life. A supplemental EIS must be demanded and unbiased independent information obtained and considered before the applicant's proposal is further entertained. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Next speaker, Henry Silverman."

Henry Silverman: "Hello, Henry Silverman, Sound Avenue, Riverhead. As I mentioned the last time we had one of these meetings, I live-- have a house right across from the golf course built on Northville Turnpike and Sound Avenue and I find it a positive thing. I'd rather see that than a million houses. It has increased the value of my property and the project is coming along quite well and they started building the clubhouse. I also have had numerous projects in the Town of Riverhead that I've developed and been very annoyed over the years how hard it is to get a permit, how frustrating. How everything you want to do you're kind of always fighting the system. And at some point land ownership is quite important and in this case someone owns a piece of land, they should have some rights to use it. Or be compensated. And I think it would be a good project for the Town of Riverhead. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Next speaker, Sherry Patterson."

Sherry Patterson: "Good evening, Sherry Patterson, 3 Waterview Court, Riverhead, New York. I'd like to speak first as someone who lives about a mile and a half east of this project. I think it would be a great asset to the Town and in my mind is preferable to houses. I really think that Riverhead could become a Myrtle Beach North if the golf courses continue to develop the way they are. And on a personal level, my husband and I recently purchased a house in Key West on a golf course. We paid more because it was on a golf course and already it's gone up in value more because it's on a golf course. The property values of any homes that are around golf courses definitely increase at a greater rate than others."

As a broker in the Town of Riverhead, I also want to add that any

property that's adjacent to a golf course would be worth more money. But I also understand the feelings of the people here who have lived next to the Talmage property for many, many years and have enjoyed it, and I know that there is a tendency among people who live next to a piece of vacant land-- because I've been through that recently myself where there was nice acreage next door to me. You come to think of it as your own. And you come to think that you have the right to decide what happens on that property when, in fact, you don't. You have not paid the taxes on it and although it's next door to you and you may use it or encroach on it or walk on it from time to time, it is not your property and you have to let the land owner exercise his rights. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Sherry. John Talmage."

John Talmage: "I'm John Talmage, Sound Avenue, Riverhead. I'm the eldest Talmage family member in the Riverhead area. I have two older sisters, one lives in Australia and one in Hawaii with her husband who is a retired Army officer. There are nine Talmage households in Riverhead who are direct descendants of Nathaniel Miller Talmage who was the first Talmage family member to own (inaudible). He bought the farm in 1882. He was born in Springs in East Hampton. He was in the Civil War; he was a Civil War cavalry officer. Fought in the battle of Gettysburg. After he got out of the Army he married a girl from Westhampton named Raynor. They lived in Westhampton briefly and in 1882 he bought the Talmage farm which we call Friar's Head Farm on the Courthouse steps at a tax sale in 1882.

Since that time-- that was about 80 acres-- since that time, the family each generation has added acreage until at the present time we have a 400 acre farm, which includes the land north of Sound Avenue and the land south of Sound Avenue.

So that's a little bit about our family. Our grandchildren are the sixth generation on this land. Our grandchildren are the 14th generation of Talmages on Long Island. They settled in Southampton in 1642, moved with eight other families to East Hampton in 1644 and started the Town of East Hampton and we're there-- our family-- there's still Talmages in East Hampton and my great grandfather as I said moved to Riverhead.

We have operated this farm continuously since that time and we are an active, aggressive, growing farm operation today. I have a brother, Nat, who is-- I don't think is here. Nat, did you make it?

He's actively involved in our farm operation and he's helping out-- he's driving a truck today delivering geranium cuttings in New England. Tomorrow morning, I'm driving a truck with 200,000 beach grass (inaudible) to Ocean City, Maryland for a restoration-- beach restoration project there. We are an active horticultural business and there are three generations of us because our grandchildren, even though they're small, they're involved-- getting involved in our greenhouse operation.

It's a little hard to take some of the descriptions of the Talmage family, some of which-- one of which you heard here tonight already. We are proud of our tradition here in Riverhead. This project that you see is the culmination of about 10 years of planning, of serious deliberate planning by the family to determine how we could have an environmentally friendly and responsible development of Friar's Head Farm. I mentioned two sisters who live around the world. We have-- I have nieces and nephews in California, in Vermont; I have a nephew that's soon leaving for Kuwait, he's a Colonel in the Army. He was there in 1990 during the Korean War-- not Korean, the Gulf War. And he's going back again. These are all owners of an asset of Friar's Head Farm. It's a global family now. Each of these members of this family own assets in this land. They are non-performing assets. That means you have an asset, you have a piece of paper that says this should be worth something and are getting no return from it. Because typically farmland barely makes enough to pay the taxes off of it and there is almost no income available to owners of that asset if they're not operators of the business."

Supervisor Vilella: "Okay, Mr. Talmage, you've got-- can you just wrap it up?"

John Talmage: "Okay. All right. The (inaudible) of what I want to say is that the Talmage family has made a decision to develop this land. We have found a compatible partner in a joint venture and we have presented a program which we think will fit in well with Riverhead's destination recreation type future and we would hope that kind of a decision is possible in our Town. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you. Dr. Stuart Lowrie."

Stuart Lowrie: "Thank you. Just for the record-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "The other mike."

Stuart Lowrie: "I should remember that from last time."

Supervisor Villella: "That's okay."

Stuart Lowrie: "For the record, my name is Stuart Lowrie. I work at the Nature Conservancy on Long Island and in the interest of keeping my remarks brief, I'll try to skim over some of the things I have. I do want to say something I said this past summer when the scoping meeting was held and that was the enormous amount of respect for those of us in the environmental community that-- that those of us in the environmental community have for the Talmage family. The fact that the forested area still exists on this property are largely due to the stewardship of the Talmage family over the last 120 years and we certainly are appreciative of the fact that that amenity has been available in a passive way to residents of our region.

That said, the proposal put forward does have to be reviewed according to the principles of SEQRA and the Nature Conservancy as the Talmage family knows is very interested in the long term preservation of that forested area and remains ready at any time to discuss with the Talmage family over again and again the ways in which they perceive that that might be accomplished.

We would like to comment on this project in the sense that these comments are supposed to be offered to respond to a generic environmental impact statement. I think-- when you look at a document that's over 1,000 pages long and that came into our hands only towards the end of December, it's fair to say that we haven't been able to give it as thorough a looking through as we would like to be able to. But we do note a number of what we think of as deficiencies and we see these as falling generally into four categories. And I'll try to quickly state those categories and to the extent possible offer some examples.

One is that it's our feeling when you compare the scoping document against the DEIS that there's an incomplete evaluation of the impact that a golf course as proposed in the draft site plans and GIS would actually have on the forest communities that are present at the site.

Two, we think that there's no meaningful mitigation proposed for the creation of the fairways and the edge impact on the forest that they will have.

Three, we know that general inadequacy with respect to research of the literature or other information sources which are available and which were known and which were identified in the scoping document and with respect to the natural communities at hand and with respect to the occurrence or significance of the occurrence of state and federal species of concern at the site.

And, finally, four, seems to be an incomplete, inadequate and apparently inappropriate inventory and failure to document the inventory procedures that were taken on the site. So, there seems to be reasonable grounds for concern here that the factual content of the DEIS is incomplete.

With respect to the forest issue, this is one that, of course, concerns the Conservancy deeply. We see the forest as a national resource, a regional resource, a resource to the Town of Riverhead. It is one of three such extensive beach forests left on Long Island of this quality and extent. The proposal that you see before you would reduce the intact block of coastal oak beech forest to a patchwork of forest remnants that would be interspersed with golf course fairway. There is on the bluff face itself a rare maritime dwarf beech forest which would be cut off in an ecological sense from the adjoining upland oak beech forest by fairways. This would eliminate-- in our opinion and these issues should be more fully discussed in the GEIS-- it would eliminate essential ecological gradients and buffering capacity that supplied by the uplands coastal beech forest.

Further as we've said in the scoping meeting, alterations in climate, wind, salt spray and invasion by exotic species resulting from the clearing of the fairways through the forest could cause serious damage and that should be more fully articulated in the scoping-- draft GEIS. These degraded forest remnants secondarily would be of little value to species which need undisturbed interior forest for either migratory stopover or year round habitat.

The DGIS does not seem to address ways in which these deleterious impacts could be mitigated and that was a direction from the scoping document itself.

We're also-- in the original scoping meeting, we pointed out that the proposed scoping documents submitted by the Traditional Links proponents had dismissed the value of the forest saying that it had been degraded and logged. We don't believe that to be the case. Our experience, using natural heritage data, indicates that logged or

previously damaged forests still retained enormous ecological value and enormous ecological importance. When you look at the follow-up in the DGIS to that portion of the scoping document that came forward, no (inaudible) search has been done to examine the forest value as the town has requested. And no independent inventories of wildlife seem to have been carried out. And those that seem to be there, it's not clear that they were done in the proper season of the year.

There are other things-- I'm sure I'm coming close to the end of my time here and I don't want to go over in the interest of letting other people speak, but that really sort of is the core of our concerns. They really seem to us to dovetail with things that were presented in the scoping document which haven't been adequately addressed in the DGIS at this time.

I have somewhat lengthier written remarks which are still in preparation-- I have a draft here-- and subsequent to the close of this hearing-- the close of written comments, I'll make those available to the Town Board. But I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay. Thank you, Stu. Beverly Prentice."

Beverly Prentice: "Beverly Prentice, Henry Lewis Lane, Jamesport. I'm President of the North Fork Chapter of the Audubon Society. I'm commenting on the part of the DEIS that describes the birdlife. I'm certified by the State of New York to monitor and manage endangered and threatened species.

The section on Avifauna contains some errors as well as omissions. Accepted methodology for locating and identifying breeding birds was in most cases not followed. References to dates and times of observations are in most cases vague or missing. The premise that the woodland is too fragmented or cut over to support much birdlife is not supported and is even contradicted.

The most important birds to be listed at most locations would be the ones that are nesting and using the area to raise their young. There is no indication that a breeding bird study was carried out on the site.

Ideally a breeding bird study is done on two to four dates between mid-June and early July. This is the time period when many

birds including songbirds and hummingbirds go through pair formation, nest building, defending of territory and raising of young. One looks for signs that these activities are taking place, but during such a study about 75% of all bird identifications are made from the birds' songs and calls. Being able to recognize the vocalizations is a basic qualification for undertaking such a study.

The time frame for the bulk of the study in the DEIS seems to be late summer to fall, a time when most breeding birds have either stopped singing because the breeding period is finished or have migrated south. Only three species of birds are mentioned in the DEIS as having been identified by song.

Going through the DEIS, I reference by page number.

I start with the statement at the bottom of page 86 that, "There were no direct observations made of species listed by the State or Federal agencies as rare or endangered."

The Endangered Species Provisions in New York State provide for protection on three levels -- endangered, meaning on the brink of extinction; threatened, being slightly less critical; and of special concern, meaning that the species is in a decline.

In fact, species on both the endangered list and the threatened list receive equal protection by the Endangered Species Unit of the New York State DEC. Mention was not made in the document of the threatened status of a number of species observed on the site.

As an example, according to the listing on page 98, common terns have been observed on the property in the area of the shipwrecks. Common terns are listed by New York State as "threatened" and therefore are protected under Endangered Species Unit provisions.

On page 87, the ruby-throated hummingbird (a bird of special concern) was presumed to be missing as a breeding species because no nests were found on the bluffs. These nests are the size of a half-dollar and are well camouflaged, being constructed of bud scales, lichen, plant down, and spider webs. They're placed 10 to 20 feet up in a tree and made to look as if they are part of a branch. The best way to find a nest is to follow a hummingbird to it. This is difficult because only the female tends the nest and her coloring is green, just like a tree leaf. This would also have to be done during the nesting period, June being the best time. Lichen, a vital part of

the nest construction, was included on the plant list for the site.

Page 98 - The concept of using sugar water to attract hummingbirds is valid. However, as with other descriptions, the time frame was not mentioned. At what season was this done? How long were the feeders left in place? Was the sugar water refilled every three or four days to avoid spoilage? What was the proportion of sugar to water? Even if this was done during the summer months, absence at feeders does not mean that birds were not present.

In June of 1991 when I first tried to attract hummingbirds with a sugar water feeder, I had no luck. The next year several hummingbirds came when I repeated my efforts. Some years they have fed continually from June to August and some years they show up only in spring or only in summer.

"Area gardens" that are mentioned would not attract the hummingbirds if the birds did not have a nearby appropriate area for nesting. The only nest that has been documented in the area has been adjacent to Paul Adams' property just east of the 4H camp. He located the nest in a wooded ravine that leads down to the beach, not actually on the bluff area. As I understand it, the ravines area common feature of the site.

As far as the diet of the hummingbirds is concerned, insects and tree sap also make up a considerable part of their diet. These would be available on the site. In fact, young are fed insects while they are in the nest, again making it feasible that nesting does take place on the site.

On page 94 it was noted that owls were not observed on the site, but no mention was made of hearing them. One of the best ways to detect the presence of owls is to play a tape of their calls near mature trees and listen for the owls to respond. This is most effective during breeding season which for great horned owls can be as early as February.

On page 94 the wood thrush and the hermit thrush are listed as possible nesting birds. On page 100 it says "Wood thrushes...and hermit thrushes... were heard frequently in the forest and are seemingly present in normal numbers." This would be noteworthy, as these species sing only on nesting territory. As far as I know, the hermit thrush (considered a woodland species) nests in only one other location in eastern Suffolk County. The presence of these thrush

species (as a breeding population) is an indication that the site is indeed capable of supporting woodland species and that fragmentation, cutting, and predation have not so far damaged its integrity.

At the bottom of page 94, it's noted that scarlet tanager, another forest interior species, may occur. The well known Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has developed a simple method, now used by hundreds of volunteers and scientists, for locating breeding tanagers using a tape of a tanager's song. No mention of using this method is made.

Page 95 concludes that "The site's bird species richness is not particularly high for the region." Since accepted means of detecting breeding birds were not used, this statement lacks a scientific basis. There is also little indication that an effort was made to locate birds during spring migration- which is the time when L.I.'s woodlands are at their peak in numbers of species present. This would also require a thorough knowledge of the bird's songs, not demonstrated by the documentation in the DEIS.

Page 95 lists one observation of a red throated loon, while common loon seen almost daily in winter months in the areas adjacent to Friar's Head was not cited. Common loon is a New York State "species of special concern."

Page 96, Cooper's Hawk was noted on the site in summer (no specific date). If this is the case it could be the only breeding area for these woodland nesting hawks in all of Long Island. This is another bird listed as "species of special concern" in New York State. Again this is an indication of a productive forest."

Supervisor Villella: "Beverly, could you wrap up as soon as possible please? I'm sorry."

Beverly Prentice: "Okay. I have-- well, have other species I'd like to talk about--"

Supervisor Villella: "Because there's a lot of cards here."

Beverly Prentice: "-- and I also have-- okay, all right. I also talk about the warblers-- let me just-- I'll just run down to my conclusion. Conclusion is that the avian community is not a rich one. My contention is that the time of the year (spring) when the avian community would be the most rich was the time that it was not

studied."

Supervisor Vilella: "Beverly, you can submit that to the Town Clerk."

Beverly Prentice: "Right now. Okay."

Supervisor Vilella: "Because we have to get someone else to speak. I'm sorry."

Beverly Prentice: "Okay."

Supervisor Vilella: "Do you have a copy of it?"

Beverly Prentice: "Yes."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you. Les Circum (phonetic)."

Aram Terchunian: "Excuse me. My name is Aram Terchunian. Dr. Circum has yielded his time to me."

Supervisor Vilella: "Excuse me?"

Aram Terchunian: "Thank you. At the pleasure of the Board, my name is Aram Terchunian. I'm a geologist. Dr. Circum has yielded his time to me."

Supervisor Vilella: "Are you going to speak again?"

Aram Terchunian: "No."

Supervisor Vilella: "No. Okay."

Aram Terchunian: "I thank you for the record. It's Aram, A-R-A-M, Terchunian. I'm a coastal geologist. I have a Bachelor's degree from Lehigh University in Environmental Science and Resource Management and a Master's degree in Coastal Studies from the University of Delaware. I'm a practicing coastal geologist for over 15 years in Westhampton Beach and I was retained by Traditional Links to look at the coastal geology of this site and I'd like very briefly to summarize my results for you.

What I'd just like to-- "

Councilman Kent: "Actually, if you stay at the podium and hold it in front of you-- "

Councilman Kwasna: "Have somebody hold them for you. Get a volunteer."

Supervisor Villella: "Would someone like to help him out?"

Councilman Kwasna: "So you can stay at the mike."

Supervisor Villella: "Just show it towards the camera."

Councilman Kent: "How long have you been studying coastal geology?"

Aram Terchunian: "I always study upside down. It helps me. I just wanted to start out with just a location diagram so we can see where the site we're looking at is. It's right here. This is a (inaudible) chart of Long Island Sound and the north shore of Long Island, and identifies the-- puts in context the area of Friar's Head that we're looking at. This is a very reduced scale, I have copies to hand to the Board. As we're all aware, Long Island is a creature of glaciers. Our findings after extensive analysis on the site as well as extensive review of literature resources including the United States Geological Survey, is that the site of Friar's Head is consistent with the glacial geology that extends from Port Jefferson through to Orient Point and, in fact, all the way up to Rhode Island. It is, in fact, a glacial moraine deposit known as the Roanoke to Charleston, Rhode Island moraine. And these diagrams which were very well produced from the Newsday series of Long Island history, explain in fairly simple graphic terms what the glaciers did as they came down from Connecticut pushing massive amounts of material in front of them and as the glaciers melted and retreated, melt water came off the glaciers and formed these very large deposits we see on the north shore.

But that's only part of the story because as we-- as the glacier receded the areas were re-worked by extensive-- extensively re-worked by winds creating what we call loess deposits and these are fine grain sand deposits which blanket over the glacially derived features.

This diagram is reproduced from a recent study completed by the United States Geological Survey and the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on their Long Island Sound

study and as you see-- "

Supervisor Villella: "After-- you can turn it around and let the people in the audience look at it, too after you, you know."

Aram Terchunian: "As you can see from right here in the Port Jefferson area, all the way through the study area which is indicated right here, right through Orient Point and back out to Rhode Island, this is all part of this glacial moraine formed by the last ice age, 12 to 18,000 years ago.

Some further evidence of this is-- been discovered, the extent of these glacial moraines and what we're looking at on the north shore is it reflects to what was originally there 12 to 18,000 years ago. And, again, here is Roanoke Point and the Friar's Head area, here is Herod Point and continuing all the way to the west in the Stony Brook area. You can see these (inaudible) forms. You can see these (inaudible) forms that are exhibited rhythmically along the north shore. These are actually the terminus locations of the glacial moraines. In fact, probably 80 to 90% of the moraine that was deposited 12 to 18,000 years ago has been eroded away by a very gradual sea level rise in coastal (inaudible).

And what we're looking at is the remaining 10 to 20% of that glacial moraine. And this is what we see on a day to day basis. Here is the crest of the topographic high or the crest of the bluff and this is the slip face and as you can see what's obvious here and to everyone who walks up and down the beaches, the material is sliding down the bluff face to the beach. It is not going from the beach up the bluff. The bluffs in the area of Friar's Head range from over 100 feet to almost 200 feet. The physics of moving sand up that bluff face in a sufficient quantity to form dunes just cannot be explained at this site. So what we are left with is the physical fact that these bluffs are the remnants of a glacial moraine deposited 12 to 18,000 years ago. That that moraine has been eroded away by gradual sea level rise; that the (inaudible) that are occurring today include the erosion of this moraine by waves and tides and winds, down towards the beach and that the features that are south of the crest of the bluff are, in fact, glacial moraine features.

This has been further definitively identified through an analysis of sand grains. Sand is a funny thing. For a geologist, sand is like a fingerprint. Certain what we call environments of deposition exhibit very characteristic sand grains. In other words, on a beach a

sand grain is what we call subrounded and occluded because it rolls around, it gets blown around by the wind. Whereas glacial sand grains are very angular and they don't have the occlusions or abrasions consistent with being rolled around on the beach. In fact, when we look at the sand grains on the site, we find that they are signatures of glacial deposits and what we call (inaudible) or near glacial deposits that after the glacier melted away, there was some slight re-working over the surface of it to form this blanket of what we call loess. The features themselves-- "

Supervisor Villella: "I'm going to have to-- excuse-- can you just wrap it up then, please."

Aram Terchunian: "Yes. Just to conclude by saying the features themselves we have definitively identified as glacial in origin and consistent with the type of glacial bluffs found from Port Jefferson to Orient. There is nothing unique or remarkable or globally rare about them although they are fine deposits and excellent examples of glacial deposits. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. With all the cards that we have here, we're going to be here to probably around 11:30. So I just want to make sure that we stick to five minutes as close as possible. Gigi Spates. Where's Gigi? There she is."

Gigi Spates: "My name is Gigi Spates and I'm speaking tonight on behalf of the Moriches Bay Audubon Society. Steven Biasetti is their corresponding secretary and he is unable to be here tonight so I will be reading a letter that he has written once I get my glasses on."

Dear Supervisor Villella and Members of the Town Board:

I write to you on behalf of Moriches Bay Audubon Society, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our 500 members reside on eastern Long Island, predominantly in the Townships of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton. Moriches Bay Audubon is dedicated to the protection of Long Island's natural resources and, thus, is deeply concerned with the proposed resort development by Traditional Links LLC.

At least 35% of the project site - approximately 170 acres - is covered by a globally rare ecological community known as the Grandifolia Sandhills. The Sandhills are an extensive "walking dunes" complex on the bluffs of Long Island Sound that contain a fascinating

collection of plant life. Vegetation includes huge tuliptrees, stands of northern red oaks and sugar maples -- all uncommon to rare tree species on Long Island -- and a one of a kind forest of dwarf American beech trees.

This rare ecological community is an important part of Long Island's natural heritage. It is a place to be protected, not destroyed. On this front, Moriches Bay Audubon is actively working with other environmental and civic organizations towards public protection of the Grandifolia Sandhills. Unfortunately, if the huge Traditional Links development is permitted, it would be disastrous for the Sandhills.

The Town Board is not obligated to approve change of zone applications. In fact, the pressure is on the applicant to make a convincing argument for a zone change. In this instance, the change of zone would enable a highly intensive collection of land uses (e.g. golf course, motel) to occur on extremely fragile and unusual natural lands. Clearly the change of zone should not be allowed. Moriches Bay Audubon urges the Town Board to deny the change of zone application of Traditional Links.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

And then as Director-- one of the Directors on the Board of Directors of Moriches Bay Audubon, I would just add two sentences of my own. Regarding a proposed golf course which is the subject tonight, we are not talking about placing it on an already human modified place like a cornfield or a sod farm. Not unlike a mini Grand Canyon, the Grandifolia sandplains are unique, awesome, and irreplaceable. I hope we will all take that into consideration. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Gigi. Next speaker, Augusta Field."

Augusta Field: "Good evening. My name is August Field. I came to Riverhead four years ago to develop and coordinate Farmers Markets for different communities on Long Island to bring locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to towns far from farmstands. Sponsored by the Peconic Land Trust, these markets have helped increase local growers' income, expand consumers' awareness of where their food is grown, and help keep agricultural land in production.

I live on farmland on Roanoke Avenue and I want to keep farmland and open space protected out here on the east end. I'm also the project coordinator of Riverhead Vision 20/20, a project devoted to involving the citizens of Riverhead in creating a collective shared vision of a healthy, prosperous Riverhead.

At the same time, I believe in family traditions, integrity, and quality of life, all of which seem to abound on the north fork.

The Talmage family has farmed their land for some time, preserving this land for us to enjoy. It is hard when we identify a special place, a beautiful spot, not to want to have it remain just the way we've always known it. But usually those beautiful spots are owned by someone who may have other plans for their land and it is not always what we would like.

The Talmages I have begun to know have given much to their community, raise their children with integrity and continue to grow products of beauty that enhance our lives. They are responsible people who care deeply about their community, their friends, families and the people who work with them. I can't say that I'm necessarily in favor of their plan for Traditional Links, but in getting to know the Talmages, I believe that this property will be shaped with integrity and in time we may be grateful for their efforts. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Anna Zurawinsky."

Anna Zurawinsky: "My name is Anna Zurawinsky as you've heard. And I'm speaking tonight as a resident and as a member of the Justice for the Environment Committee stationed at St. John Baptist Roman Catholic Church. By the way, I don't envy you your job.

As a resident, I am perturbed by the onslaught of people who think they can improve the Riverhead area by destroying our natural and aesthetic environment in order to fulfill their own economic goals. And I hope that tonight this will not-- I hope tonight will be a preventive to this type of action that I've seen throughout Wading River.

Grandifolia Sandhills which is Long Island's most dramatic and unique natural site, really should be treasured for our children and we should be using that as an education center rather than trying to destroy it by setting up a golf course-- a Traditional Links golf

course. As you've heard from the experts already, the area abounds in rare vegetation, trees, as well as interesting and beautiful plants and animals. In this era of partnership and we hear this all the time, partnership, partnership, partnership-- in this era of partnerships, I feel that we must acknowledge the importance and necessity of working with each other, environmentalists and developers, in order to serve the best interests of our people.

If the Sandhills would be protected in its entirety, there still would be a large enough area to develop courses, golf courses, not necessarily Traditional Links. I happen to be a golfer as well so I know what the Traditional Links are. And as I stated before, perhaps along with the golf course, an education center for the Sandhills so people can enjoy its unique splendor and sort of will it over to the children who are here and who will come.

Working together to formulate an amenable solution is more productive than what is happening right now. I, therefore, urge you, Supervisor Vilella as well as the Town Board, to advocate in some form the protection of the Grandifolia Sandhills in its entirety but under the curtain of partnership and, hopefully, the Talmage family will lean towards that type of process, for lack of a better word. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you, Anna. John Turner."

John Turner: "Good evening. My name is John Turner and I serve as the Legislative Director of the New York State Water Resource Commission and also am here representing the Task Force on Long Island Sound, which is chaired, both of those entities are chaired by New York State Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli (phonetic).

I've gotten some comments that I would like to share with you, others that have already been touched upon by speakers already but first on a bird note, it has nothing to do with water resource-- Long Island Sound, I also have the privilege of teaching ornithology at Long Island University. I'm very familiar with the bird life of Long Island for the past 25 years and I want to agree with what Bev Prentice said about Cooper's Hawks. The EIS indicates that both Cooper's Hawks and (inaudible) Hawks were documented on the property during the summer months, the implication being that they may, in fact, be nesting there, and if they do nest there, (inaudible) species that would be extremely significant because I think there is one record for Cooper's Hawks nesting on Long Island in the history of the

literature and no record at all of (inaudible) Hawks. So, again, determination that there are both those species of hawks found there during the summer months is something that is quite significant from an ecological perspective.

I wanted to share concern and frustration with you in that back on May 14, 1998, I provided verbal comments relating to the scoping document, followed that up with a three page letter on May 14 indicating some of the additional issues that we were hoping would be scoped and then on August 6, 1998, on behalf of the Coalition for the Grandifolia Sandhills and really with the recommendation and request of Town Board members, provided a detailed eight page letter in which we document the 20 additional issues of concern. I think I would characterize to say that the DEIS that has been prepared has summarily disregarded almost all of the issues that we asked be addressed within the DEIS and that is, of course, extremely troubling to us.

Time precludes me from going through a lot of those issues with you but I do want to talk just briefly about alternatives. From our perspective, the alternative discussion in the EIS is deficient. You have one chance to get this project right. And I think that there's no crystal ball here. There's a lot of competing factors at work. There is a lot of complexity involved. The environmental setting is extremely significant. The social benefits of the proposed project may be very, very great and, therefore, this project lends itself more than any other project I've ever been, you know, associated with or commented upon, a detailed assessment of a whole range of alternatives, not just the three alternatives that have been picked and highlighted in the EIS.

Relating to those alternatives, I have to say that we've got some concerns. For example, I assume that the alternative on the right is the one that highlights the residential subdivision. I have to give the applicant credit. That scares the heck out of me. It looks like I'm looking at a plat from Queens.

I don't understand why it would have to be laid out with such a lack of imagination and why given the significant environmental resources that have been documented to exist on the property, why the applicant should be required to submit a cluster proposal to you-- the residential development. So we urge that, again, one of about eight or nine different alternatives that we requested be considered, analyzed, you know, and assessed in the impact statement.

One of the problems I had in trying to wade through those thousand pages, I did do it, is that it was unclear to me what legal requirements are in place for the zoning categories and quite frankly what the applicant is entitled to under the various zoning categories. I think that public benefit in the EIS, if that kind of information could be incorporated.

For example, with regard to the alternative, I guess, on the left which seems to be a combination-- I assume the golf course and residential development, I couldn't find any supporting documentation to indicate why the one golf course could occur along with specifically 369 units of development. That would be very, very helpful for us to understand, again, to be able to assess and prepare the various alternatives.

The issue of wetlands. There seems to be some information that there may be temporary or (inaudible) wetlands perhaps that are on the property that was kind of implied in some of the information I read, particularly Aram Terchunian talked about (inaudible) I think up in the northeastern corner of the property. The presence or absence of wetlands even if they are temporary should be documented.

Groundwater quality, a real thing that the Water Resource Commission is concerned about. Always look at the bottom line incidentally. What are the likely impacts on groundwater quality. They're not discussed. They talk about under the golf course that there may be a range of I think .08 to 8, maybe a worse case scenario 3.8 milligrams per liter of nitrate nitrogen as a result of golf course operations.

And you talk about with regard to the rest of it, including the 500 unit motel that, well, we'll just conform with article six. That is not sufficient. They should be able to disclose, they should be able to do the nitrogen calculations, and (inaudible) calculations to be able to determine what the nitrate nitrogen levels will be from the sanitary flow and provide that information to you. And additionally coupled with the impacts from the golf course, determine is there any statistical likelihood that will exceed the 10 milligrams per liter state and health standard."

Supervisor Villella: "All right, John, you can finish up. Go ahead, finish up."

John Turner: "Yes, I'm almost done. I would just-- I do want

to reiterate one other-- one thing and that's what Dick Amper said. I think it's really critical that the public policy and legal ramifications for the (inaudible) easement on 101 acres be discussed and, lastly, the worse case scenario. Throughout the document talks about championship quality golf course. I have to believe that-- and I believe it based on the work that I read, they're proposing to have a world class golf course. I can't help believe that there won't be opportunities and a desire for tournaments, a tremendous influx of people. Worse case scenario impacts should be included in the DEIS and they weren't. So, on that note, I thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, John. Steve."

Steve Haizlip: "Steve Haizlip of Calverton. Mr. Goldman (phonetic) my friend here is going to read a prepared statement. I am going to second that but I want to add comments of my own. I understand that if this golf course is not allowed, Mr. Talmage is allowed to build about 450 houses and if that's the case, then the gentleman that was just here was talking about nitrates and fertilizers, well, the golf course is controlled with what they put on. Now imagine 450 houses, everybody fertilizing their lawn to keep it nice and green and then all the school kids. We will have a burden."

Now, I'm going to finish up by saying, you know, if Robert Moses lived today, he would never get anything done. He wouldn't build a parkway, he wouldn't build a park and he wouldn't have all these beautiful scenery that's around because there would be too many environmental or educated people around saying you can't do this. But it's done and it ain't created no harm to nobody on this island."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Steve. Thank you. All right. That was good, Steve. Dr. Robert Johnson."

Dr. Robert Johnson: "I'd like to defer to later, please."

Supervisor Villella: "Sure. How late? In the middle, in the end? End. Okay. Thomas Stock-- Stark. Which way is it? Stark or Stock?"

Thomas Stock: "Stock."

Supervisor Villella: "Stock. I'm sorry."

Thomas Stock: "I represent the Sierra Club. We'd like to see the land preserved for the children of the community-- Riverhead community. I think that the Board has to consider the future-- the children of the future. On either side of this site are two communities that exist already, Reeves Park and Baiting Hollow-- they're developing. This would be a terrific open space between those two communities.

When we're long gone, we have to consider the way we treated the land when we were alive for the future-- future generations are going to judge us on how we treated the land. And that's a great lesson for the children of Riverhead. So I urge you to consider preserving the uniqueness and diversity of the site.

I find it fascinating-- I've never been there-- but as an instructor at Dorothy Flint 4H camp (phonetic) I took a group of children into the very edge of the sandplain-- the site-- and we sat down underneath one of those dwarf beech trees and I asked them to be quiet and just look around for a little while and later on we just talked about it and they were excited and considered it a sacred time.

Another time back in 1974 I remember flying over this area when I was doing a project and seeing the uninterrupted north-- Harbor Hills moraine which is a strip of forest from Port Jefferson out to Montauk, it's very thin because of the erosion of the bluffs and seeing it uninterrupted-- I'd like to see it stay that way without the golf courses.

I see the forest as a resource for the North American continent-- for the whole North American continent, not just for Riverhead and Long Island and the United States and the nation, but for the whole continent. I see it as a sacred place with diverse species and I think we have to consider the children. They're the ones that are going to inherit the land and we can send them a message on how we preserve and protect the land. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Jack Van deWetering."

Jack Van deWetering: "I'm Jack Van deWetering. I'm a farmer down at Baiting Hollow. I've been living in that area for the last 30 years. I know the Talmages for a long time. They helped me when I got here. They lent me a hand when I first grew vegetables. And in those days, they were environmentally sensitive people. So I'm here to express my support for the zone change that the family is

requesting.

The Talmages have lived and farmed the east end for the last century and a half, much longer than any of us have been over here. They're one of the founding families of our community. Their livelihood, horticulture, brings them close to the land everyday. They are ecology minded with various crops they grow like wild grasses like John just mentioned. So if you think about ecology, they were practicing it before a lot of us even got here. And look what they have done to their property. They left it in a natural state. They did a fantastic job. But it is their land and we should respect that.

Also, think back where they came from, where they have been. When they do a job, they do it right. And they will take all things into consideration.

Their request for a zone change is made with the best interests of our community in mind. The 350 acres in question under the present zoning laws could very well be divided up into lots of land-- lots of lots and homes that this community cannot afford even. Our school system will be overburdened, we'll need new schools. But, you know, a lot of people don't come out when we have problems of putting housing up. But when something else comes up like a golf course, I see a lot of people coming out.

Not only is the open space lost forever when you have 300 to 400 homes in here, but you're right. You try to control the amount of nitrogen that goes in there, it's very difficult to do. The (inaudible) things in agriculture and in horticulture that is happening that the Talmages or our farm would measure our water, would measure the amount of fertilizer that is not measureable when you have homes.

At present, it costs us approximately \$1.37 to support each new person that lives-- comes to our town. At the present cost of-- present taxes only brings in \$1.00. This becomes a negative. Our taxes would have to increase for new schools and services that would be required and our community cannot afford these additional taxes and homes. Our town is actually too poor to have this happen to us.

Under the Talmage plan, a golf course would be the focal point for redevelopment on the east end. It would have the beauty of open space with the golf courses, with the sweeping lawns and landscaping. The hotel, if there is one, would pay for the taxes on an economic

base for our community, but would not be putting additional demands on our school district.

Regarding concerns of water and fertilizer that would be used to maintain a golf course. The irrigation systems today can be programed to get just the right amount of fertilizer and water and chemicals. And, again, if homes were built on those properties the town would have little or no control at all over what is happening and what goes into the ground.

Right now the area is in sod. You've already got grass. You already got a lawn. One of the things we're doing with it is we're taking the sod out and we're transporting this to our communities. The Talmage plan would simply make a larger portion of that sod into a golf course. That's how simple it is.

Let's just take a moment to consider what is it that the Talmages have done for our community living here for the last 150 years. They had the foresight and saw the need that made Central Suffolk Hospital a reality in this town. They were the first to sign up for the Farmland Preservation and over the years they have been active in many organizations like Boy Scouts, the Farm Bureau, the Rotary, fundraisings, keep Cornell University in its place here in Riverhead. The Talamges have always had our community a priority and I believe that their plans for this property is in the best interests for all concerned."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Jack. Joyce Trondle. Am I correct? Trondle. Oh, that's a "d". I'm sorry. Trondle. Small "d"; very small "d"."

Joyce Trondle: "My name is Joyce Trondle and I am a soon to be resident of Baiting Hollow. My husband and I bought a piece of property in Baiting Hollow which backs on the Grandifolia Sandhills and, of course, we bought the property because we were totally enamored of the beauty of the place and from what we read and from what we heard from the environmentalists we were also interested in the flora and fauna that is so rare in that setting.

My concern today-- I should say also that I agree with the environmentalists who have expressed concerns about the destruction of the Grandifolia Sandhills but my concerns today are more in terms of services for the town of Riverhead. If a 500 unit hotel and golf course and rental cottages are brought into Riverhead township, what

will that do to the historic two lane corridor that is Sound Avenue? What will that do to medical services, fire services, police services. Services that we have come to take for granted and that are comfortable for us may no longer be comfortable if we have that kind of influx of people. I have a running nightmare about caravans of cars, maintenance trucks, delivery trucks, merchants coming through our sleepy little, charming little hamlet and turning it into a carnival atmosphere."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you. Dick Redican."

Dick Redican: "Good evening. My name is Dick Redican. I'm both a resident and I work here in the Town of Riverhead. I'm also a member of one of the town's service organizations. I have absolutely no facts and figures to go over with anyone. However, common sense dictates that a family's roots that go back to the 1600's, are not going to do anything to the community that would be harmful in any way, shape or form. Common sense tells you that. They're not leaving; they're staying. When did we in this country develop an attitude that there's something wrong in achievement, in striving for success, in wanting to better oneself? That is the American way. It has always been the American way. God willing, it will continue to be the American way. I am in favor of the Talmage plan. I hope the rest of you are, too. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you, Dick. Mary McGlone. Did I say it wrong?"

Mary McGlone: "No."

Supervisor Vilella: "Okay."

Mary McGlone: "McGlone, yes. My name is Mary McGlone and I'm a resident of Southold but I'm speaking on behalf of Bob DeLuca of Group for the South Fork. I work at Group for the South Fork. And I have a letter here addressed to you that I would like to read.

Dear Supervisor Vilella and Members of the Town Board:

I deeply regret that I am unable to attend this evening's hearing on the Traditional Links application. As you are aware, Group for the South Fork represents the conservation and planning interests of approximately 2,500 families, businesses and individuals from across Long Island.

Although our membership and interest area is primarily focused on the towns of East Hampton, Southampton and Shelter Island, we stand strongly in support of protecting and preserving unique natural resources with which we are blessed throughout all of eastern Long Island.

This evening we wish to express our full support for the protection of the unique ecological community known as the Grandifloia Sandhills and ask the Board to seriously consider whether or not the proposed rezoning of this parcel is in the best long term interest of the Town of Riverhead with its distinctive agricultural landscape and heritage.

We wish to apprise the Board of the fact that the unique character and location of this forest type has been described and published for more than 25 years and that this forest community is currently recognized as containing unique natural elements as defined by the New York State Natural Heritage Program.

In support of the historic recognition of this community, we are providing the Board with a copy of an article written and prepared by Andrew M. Greller of Queens College in 1977, and published in the botanical journal *Torreyia*. According to Professor Greller, the dwarf beech forest at Friar's Head in Riverhead Town was first described in 1970 and is "unknown elsewhere on the island."

Given the documented rarity of this natural community, we strongly encourage the Town to utilize its mitigation authority under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and seek its full preservation on any development which might be proposed for this site.

We also have concerns about the level of detail provided regarding the potential full scale development of the entire parcel. We encourage the Board to require a full assessment of the groundwater quality impacts and sanitary sewage disposal needs of this project at full build out.

Such an analysis must include a detailed discussion of regulatory compliance with all appropriate Suffolk County health standards if it is to achieve the hard look test as established in the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Also, we encourage the Board to seek its own objective expertise

on the review of this entire document and project. Given the significance of this proposal and the potential magnitude of its long term effects on the entire Town and its natural resources, such outside assistance is strongly advised.

We hope that the Board will make use of the valuable provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act which provides lead agencies with the authority to recover the actual costs of reviewing a Draft or Final Environmental Impact Statement from the applicant. And we can provide details of that law.

To this end, we recommend that the Town hire its own highly qualified planning and impact assessment team to review this DEIS and to offer technical and policy recommendations to the Board. In a project such as this, the public interest is better served if the lead agency has its own objective review team working on the overall review of the action.

In closing, we wish to express our opposition to any change of zone that would result in the degradation of the Grandifolia Sandhills and the further elimination of Riverhead's vital agricultural landscape.

The Town of Riverhead is clearly at a crossroads between its rural past and a sprawling suburban future. On countless occasions it has been our experience that the unique natural and agricultural landscape of our entire region best supports our local economy, enhances our quality of life and preserves a community character that has long since been lost throughout much of western Long Island.

If the Town it to retain its unique identity then it must approach every major development proposal with a vigilance and a commitment to planning and preserving all that the town has left to offer. If it doesn't, one proposal after another will slowly erase all that is most important to all those who reside within and visit the Town of Riverhead.

Thank you all for your time and consideration of our comments. We remain available to assist the town in whatever way we can.

And this is signed by Robert DeLuca, President of Group for the South Fork."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, thank you. Next speaker will be Charles Bowman."

Charles Bowman: "Good evening, Mr. Supervisor and Members of the Board. I know you all know me, Charles Bowman, President of Land Use Ecological Services. My business is on the corner of Warner Drive and Sound Avenue. Over the past year, I've kind of sat back and watched what's been going on, the scoping hearings, the disagreements between parties, and I thought that finally came the time where I should at least give the Board what I consider to be an unbiased opinion.

The Talmages-- I have a great respect for. They are wonderful people. They have a great business. I also am very familiar with this entire area. I live in Oak Hills, my business is on Warner Drive and like many people which I have to thank the Talmages for, I've been up in that area of forest along the bluff for many, many times. It is unique. It needs to have very careful considerations and analysis done on the impacts. The DEIS is totally inadequate when it comes to impacts to that portion of the site. There are (inaudible); there are hummingbirds which I've seen feeding in sapsucker holes. It's a unique area. And I'm not saying that there shouldn't be any impacts whatsoever.

I heard Dr. Lowrey speak and I think he is the most reasonable speaker that you have had here, that you need a lot more information. That information has not been provided to you about the wildlife resources.

There is significant owl populations in this whole area. How do I know? I've seen them. Just for the fun of it, going out at night. There are very important resources that need a lot more study in this particular area.

The Talmages on a whole, I would support their applications for a change of zone and an intense use of the farmland. I think that's a great idea. My business is there; I would much rather see some sort of golf course or resort business than houses. You know, the housing that has been done of which I say that I've had a part in at some portion doing impact analysis. I'm not very happy with how it's turned out. But I believe that the Board here has an opportunity to really take a hard look at this and do something great, something that is not mutually exclusive. We can, I believe, have both and I think

that is what I would like to see. I hope that's what some of my neighbors would like to see. I don't think it's one or the other. Let's do the research which has not been done to document what is actually in this forest that is significant and try and mitigate its impacts and perhaps we'll all end up with a terrific project and the Talmages will end up with what they want. And to any extent that I can be of help to the Board to do that as a resident, I'd be more than happy to volunteer my services. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Charles. Nancy Grey."

Nancy Grey: "Good evening. My name is Nancy Grey. I live at 705 Sound Shore Road in Riverhead. I would really like to address the Town Board as the lead agency to reject the DEIS as submitted and what I'm going to comment on are the traffic issues.

I know the traffic from first hand use. I live on Sound Shore Road which parallels Sound Avenue to the north a little bit east of the project. For me to go for a quart of milk, I have to use Sound Shore Road-- Sound Avenue. And also up until this last July I've been a visiting nurse in the area and I've driven on Sound Avenue, summer, spring, fall, winter, day, night, rain, snow, etc. So, in regards to the traffic study, I am requesting that the Town Board as lead agency reject the DEIS as submitted.

The traffic study is inadequate and does not address the uniqueness of the Sound Avenue corridor as demonstrated by the following omissions. Only two manual traffic counts were done to address peak hour traffic volume. They were done only at six intersections on Saturday, May 30, 1998 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and again on Thursday, June 4, between 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Traditional rush hour traffic regarding work and school is not the biggest problem on Sound Avenue. What about Friday night, Saturday night, Sundays, holiday weekends, etc., etc.? This sample, only two days at six intersections in my opinion is inadequate.

There is no mention of Sound Avenue as being a designated scenic corridor. People worked very hard in the past to obtain that designation in hopes to maintain the area's rural character. No mention of farm vehicle traffic is made, no mention of multiple areas of flooding that occur in the rainy season. There's no mention of the intersections of Northville Turnpike, Penny's Road and Sound Avenue

that's less than a half mile east of 105, the busiest and most dangerous intersections on Sound Avenue.

There is no mention of the direct correlation of increasing traffic congestion on Route 58 and increasing traffic volume on Sound Avenue. There's no mention of the proposed project to straighten the dangerous curve on Edwards Avenue south of the stop sign at Sound Avenue. There's no mention of Horton Avenue going right through a community with children at play. That is why the speed limit is posted at 30 miles per hour.

Dolphin Way, Sebastian Drive, Baywood Drive and Baiting Hollow Road aren't even on the sketch shown. And what about the eventuality of tournaments?

The proposal projects-- the proposed project of two 18 hole golf courses, a 500 room hotel, I assume double occupancy which means 1,000 people, 11 three to four bedroom homes, and 14 cottages would definitely have a direct negative impact on the traffic patterns that are already stressed to the max in spring, summer and fall.

As indicated by the study, the traffic usage for the complex will not be at usual work, school, rush hour periods. But use will increase when the area can least accommodate it. Sound Avenue is truly one of Riverhead's treasures both economically and aesthetically. Again, I ask that you reject the DEIS as submitted."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Nancy."

Nancy Grey: "You're welcome."

Supervisor Villella: "Mr. Eisenhart."

Robert Eisenhart: "My name is Robert Eisenhart and I'm here because my interest lies in some of the phrases that I was reading in the paper in regard to the topography or the (inaudible) of the north shore. And I say this because I am a graduate geologist. I have a Bachelors Degree in geology from City College of New York.

And during that period of time, we studied Long Island. For one big reason, it's very unique. It's one of the few places around where you can actually have visible evidence of the effects of a glacier on the topography of an area.

Long Island happens to be-- is actually the residual effect of a recessed-- of glacier. Yes, it came down and it dropped the heavy stuff south of the north shore. When it receded it formed another moraine on the north shore and that one, of course, was lighter material, more sand, pebbles, and when the ice melted it leached a lot of this sand out, south of it you have an outwash plain. My concern is what they were referring to as migrating dunes. All right. The north shore has no such thing. It is a moraine. It happens to be a moraine of very fine sand, pebbles, none of which is actually indigenous to Long Island. Nothing on the surface of this island actually was here. It was all brought here by the glacier and deposited when the glacier receded.

Yes, this type of a moraine is affected by wind and is affected by ocean waves but to say that it would have a damaging effect on the area is really-- you're talking about anything that might have a damaging effect maybe a (inaudible) might effect it where you would actually-- where it actually would be detrimentally affective to it, So what I say is when these people start talking to you about something like migrating dunes, they're both walking dunes, and if you want to see a real walking dune, go to the south shore. That's where they are. Not on the north shore. All right. That's all I have to say. Please, gentlemen, when you look at these things and you look at the little things in it, make sure that they're as accurate as the other people who were talking about the flora and the fauna of the island. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Elizabeth Baker. I don't know if it's Baker, but Elizabeth Baker. Is that it? Baker? I would have called you first. I didn't know you had the kids here."

Elizabeth Baker: "Good evening. My name is Elizabeth Baker. This is my husband, Tom, and these are my three children. And they're the main reasons that we're here tonight. And I'm appearing before the Town Board to share my opposition to the planned Traditional Links project. When my husband and I decided to settle here and raise a family 13 years ago, we did so because of the rural and open space character and quality of the area. And settling here was the determining factor of our being here.

I want to know what position this Board will take to assure my children that the only open space where they'll be able to thrive and flourish won't be within the confine of their own backyard. And if

this project is approved, my children will have been exposed to the pesticides used on not one or two, but three golf courses by the time they reach maturity. I don't want to have to look into my daughter's eyes in 10 or 15 years and tell her I didn't do everything I that I could to limit her exposure to the pesticides that are used on golf courses.

I don't want to have to be in a position to answer her why she was exposed to them and that the people involved in making the decision to expose here to these pesticides didn't want to think that far in advance.

For these reasons and many more that you've heard and you will hear this evening, my family requests that you deny the proposed zone change. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you."

Tom Baker: "May I say something?"

Supervisor Vilella: "Yes."

Tom Baker: "All right. I'm Tom Baker. I travel 120 miles a day so that I can live here in this town of Baiting Hollow and I feel-- I think all the Board members should take a ride in the evening sometime on the corner of Osborn Avenue and Sound Avenue, stop their car and get out and look. First look up at the sky, see the stars. Then go out and listen, you'll see deer, you'll see-- right now you'll see owls howling, all of these things. You start with a 500 room-- I don't know what you want to call it, it's just going to ruin everything. You look up at the sky, you'll see the lights of the 500 room hotel. You'll never see another animal around. This is what we'd like to see our children have and what we grew up and that's the reason I drive 120 miles a day, six days a week so that I can be here. I hope that the Board will take that time out just do that one evening, see what they see. If they don't-- if they do approve it, I'd like you to go out there after you see those lights up there and see those stars that you don't see. That's all I'd like to say. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you. Phil Schmidt. Caught you napping there."

Phil Schmidt: "Yeah, just about. Phil Schmidt, I'm here on behalf of the Long Island Farm Bureau. I'm past president of the Farm Bureau. I'm also a farmer in Riverhead, just east of the Talmages on Roanoke and Sound Avenue. As you know from Joe Gergela's and my comments back at the August 3rd informational hearing, the Farm Bureau reviewed the Traditional Links original proposal to develop 36 holes of golf and a 500 room hotel and concluded that it could not support the plan because of its use of the 100 acres south of Sound Avenue which are in the County's Farmland Preservation Program.

Although we support the Traditional Links concept of resort development in this area, we cannot support the removal of the land from the Farmland Program regardless of how it may impact a particular project because doing so could establish a bad precedent for the future of the Preservation programs. Our position is that once the land is in the program, it should not-- it has to stay there.

We understand that Traditional Links has proposed in its DEIS a development alternative for the 350 acres of land south-- north of Sound Avenue which is not in the Farmland program, and we support the program.

As private property owners Traditional Links can develop the entire property residential without changes of zone and, therefore, we strongly believe that any change of zone would enable them to build one or more golf courses and reduce the density of residential uses that they are permitted to develop under existing zoning conditions. This would be a plus for the town. The Town of Riverhead has always and should continue to pursue ways that reduce residential density in the Town without taking private property rights and this proposal alternative is a good way to do just that.

As you know, the Farm Bureau will always speak out and take action against any efforts to impair or take private property owner's rights. When groups get together and create or make up environmental issues to stop or delay a project, that's the equivalent of taking or

impairment of property rights. In the Farm Bureau's opinion, that's exactly what's going on here and it's not acceptable.

So we ask the Town Board of Riverhead to ignore the rhetoric and focus on the factual evidence presented by credible and qualified experts on the issues being reviewed. To do anything else would be wrongful taking of property rights and the Farm Bureau can't support here or anywhere else. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Lester Davis."

Lester Davis: "Lester Davis. I grew up on a farm about 20 miles west of here and operated a farm for about 40 years and moved here about six years ago to get away from the urban-- well, mess we had. And I live right around the corner from this property-- the Talmage property. I'm looking across the street at the Fox Hill Golf Course. Now the people here tonight who oppose the golf course, just let them think for a minute if Fox Hill went into several hundred houses. Just think about it. Just reverse of what the Talmages want to do. And I think the bottom line is here-- I believe, I'm quite sure, it's been established that homeowners use more pesticides and fertilizers per square foot than a farmer does. I think this has been touched on earlier this evening. The golf courses-- they don't spend a dollar more than they have to. The homeowner is not concerned, the package says use a pound, they'll use two or three pounds. It really doesn't matter to them. But anyway I think the bottom line here is there's really no comparison when you compare a golf course with hundreds of houses.

The-- I believe the tax deficit, and I could stand corrected on this-- goes into housing, something like okay, the I believe this is close. The liability average per home is about \$8,900 and the taxes they pay is about \$2,900. So that means a deficit of \$6,000 per house. If you multiply that by 5,000-- correction, 500 houses, that's about a \$3,000,000 deficit that we don't have today. That's it. Rest my case."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Ken Zahler."

Ken Zahler: "Chris, Phil, Vinny, Mark, Jim, for you and mostly for everybody here from Audubon Society and from Groups for the South Fork and all the other groups, I spent six years on the Board of Education in this town; I'm still on the Riverhead Townscape Board, I'm also on the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and

Preservation. I'm also in the Riverhead Rotary. I own a business in Riverhead. I live in this town. I'm invested in this town. And my wife teaches the children of this town. I'm speaking to you not as somebody who is from a distance analyzing something that they really don't know anything about. I'm talking to you about this town. We have a school budget of probably someplace near fifty million now. It comes to about eleven grand per child. About 21% comes from the State of New York. All the rest comes from the local taxpayers. I would like to inform the people in this room, especially if they're still here, the couple with the three little kids, they won't be able to afford to stay in a house in this town if something isn't done about the tax base.

Of the five east end towns, four of them have thousands of vacation homes which do not send children to the local school districts. Only Riverhead does not. Of the five west end towns, they all have substantial commercial and industrial bases for taxes. Riverhead doesn't have that either. We desperately need something. You cannot in good conscience allow more residences to go in and turn down a golf course. It just flies in the face of common sense to the extreme.

The environment is something that I am concerned about as well and I believe that this golf course can be done with consideration for the environment and knowing the Talmage family as others have gotten up here and spoken about that before me, we know that they're not going to do something that is going to damage the environment. We know that they've got far more concern for this community and for the environment than probably anybody else that's gotten up here to speak. I really believe that you must approve this plan. And I also believe that time is important. Projects like this get delayed unnecessarily for outrageous periods of time and then nothing gets done.

On another issue, local talk has it that this Town Board has been afraid of making wrong decisions and postponed things so as not to make a mistake. In this particular situation, gentlemen, I think you'll agree with me, to postpone this would be the most-- the biggest mistake of all. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "You're welcome. Eric Lamont."

Eric Lamont: "My name is Eric Lamont and I speak this evening as a resident and on behalf of the Long Island Botanical Society. As I've been sitting here this evening listening to all the speakers, I

wonder how many people really understand why we're here tonight. Why are all these people-- why is everyone here? And the reason why we're all here is because we are in a process right now, a legal process, an environmental review process. That's why we're here. It's okay to give personal opinions, that's fine. But that's not really why we're here. We are here today for one reason. Because something happened on December 15th. On December 15th, the applicant submitted an environmental impact statement and by law this meeting tonight had to be held to give public input to that environmental impact statement.

I wonder how many of the people that spoke tonight even saw this environmental impact statement. That is why we are here today. And in the last two weeks, I have spent many hours as I know other environmentalists have spent, pouring over those more than 1,000 pages. I have my comments written up in detail which I will submit. Maybe I'll touch on a few of them. I'll kind of go right to my final conclusions.

The DEIS has provided false, misleading and erroneous information to the Town of Riverhead and has seriously misrepresented the applicant's project to the town. I don't have much time verbally so I'll just touch on a few of these problems in the DEIS.

The first deals with the globally rare dwarf beech forest. The DEIS states that all of the globally rare dwarf beech trees on site are located seaward, which means north of the coastal erosion hazard line and therefore will not be destroyed by the project. That's very convenient. Everyone of these dwarf beech trees, globally rare, no one denies that, very conveniently they're just all north and they're all protected by the state. The Long Island Botanical Society contends that a significant number, hundreds, possibly thousands of dwarf beech trees, occur along the perimeter of inland sand dunes landward of the coastal erosion hazard line. And the proposed development will result in the destruction of these globally rare dwarf beech trees.

Now, immediately here we are presented with a serious contradiction in the DEIS. The first of many. Either the dwarf beech trees occur landward of the coastal erosion zone or they don't. It's as simple as that. Either the DEIS is providing false, misleading and erroneous information to the Town of Riverhead or the DEIS is, indeed, factual.

I propose let's go up to the site. Let's have the Town Board

members, a few environmentalists, let's invite the media along, let's go out, let's see this draft environmental impact statement is truthful. Let's-- I mean, I know it's not going to happen. Why isn't it going to happen? It's not going to happen because the DEIS is erroneous. It makes false statements and is misleading.

The second area of many that I would like to just touch on briefly, remember, we're in a process here. The applicant has an obligation, an obligation to provide factual information of how this project is going to impact upon the environment. And that factual information has not been submitted. The DEIS states that the woodlands on site are not natural. The DEIS states that they're the result of human disturbance, that they're highly disturbed when, in fact, the scientific literature and this is not me as an individual stating this. This is scientific literature going back to 1867. The scientific literature states that these forests are indeed rare. And I'm not just talking about the dwarf little forest. I'm talking about the coastal oak beech forest comprised of large trees, trees that don't occur anywhere else on Long Island and these are, indeed, rare forests in New York State.

The applicant has an obligation to provide truthful and factual information to the town. That's not too much to ask.

I have a very serious problem with the vegetation map provided in the DEIS. Now I know all of you gentlemen have probably reviewed many environmental impact statements and there's maps all over the place. It's hard to find tables to put all the maps that are submitted. I'm holding in front of me the vegetation map that was provided in this environmental impact statement. It's on a half a sheet of 8 and 1/2 by 11 paper. Now I've reviewed many environmental impact statements and during the scoping process the applicant was specifically asked to provide an adequate vegetation map. There's some serious stuff up there. How are we supposed to know where it is when this is what we are supplied with?

The DEIS states that there are areas where Christmas tree plantations occur. Yes, they're right. There have been Christmas tree plantations on site. Well, where are they on the map? How are we supposed to know? The DEIS states that there are natural groves of pitchpine along the ravines. Where are they? How are we supposed to know? How is this project supposed to be planned properly when the information has not been provided?"

Councilman Cardinale: "Eric, you've gone five minutes. Would you wrap this up in the next minute, please?"

Eric Lamont: "Sure."

Terry Hauger: "My name is Terry Hauger. I'm supposed to speak. I'm yielding my five minutes to Mr. Lamont."

Councilman Cardinale: "Terry, what is your last name?"

Terry Hauger: "Hauger."

Councilman Cardinale: "Thank you. Go ahead, Eric."

Eric Lamont: "Thank you. Well, then I'll just mention a few more of the concerns that the Long Island Botanical have."

(Applause)

Councilman Cardinale: "Can we refrain from that, please?"

Eric Lamont: "As I said I have reviewed many environmental impact statements during the past 10 years and to be quite honest, I was looking forward to seeing a legitimate publication here, something that the town could make a determination upon. But the information has simply not been presented.

Another concern. There are three short lists of plants presented in the DEIS. I found more than two dozen spelling mistakes in that. Moosewood is listed as being and I quote, characteristic of the under story of the site's wooded fringe. How many of you have ever seen moose on Long Island? Have any of you seen moose on Long Island? Well, let me tell you something. I've been studying the plants of Long Island for 25 years and I have never seen moose. And you know what? I've never seen moosewood on Long Island. I've seen it upstate New York.

In George Peters' classic publication The Trees of Long Island, moosewood does not occur on Long Island. This is just one of many flaws yet the applicant's consultants say that not only does moosewood occur on site, but it's characteristic of the under story of the site's wooded fringe. It doesn't occur on Long Island. This should give you a little idea of what was presented in the DEIS. Pinxter flower (phonetic) is not listed or discussed in the DEIS even though

it is known to be a dominant shrub in the forest under story from scientific publications of (inaudible) in 1970.

It's also very interesting to note-- now remember pinxter flower is not listed as occurring on site. Well, pinxter flower is one of the major natural shrubs that provide food for the ruby throated hummingbird. Here we are back at the hummingbird. Well, the DEIS says there's no pinxter flower, which there is, and they argue that that's why there's no hummingbirds. But there is pinxter flower up there and there are hummingbirds.

The point I'm trying to make is the DEIS is seriously incomplete. Another little example here. In the scoping session, someone brought out-- I don't know who it was-- that the site may possibly provide habitat for a federally endangered orchid, the small world begonia. (Inaudible) This is a federally endangered species. It is not known to occur in New York State currently. There were two historical occurrences on Long Island but they're no longer here. And it was suggested that this site may provide habitat for this federally endangered plant. Well, what does the DEIS-- the DEIS it talks a little bit about this federally endangered plant, this small world begonia orchid. You know what the DEIS says? This is a-- listen, this is the Federal Endangered Species Act. Okay. The DEIS says incorrectly that this federally endangered plant is not native to the northeastern United States. That means the applicant's consultants, if they're right, then everyone in the United States government that knows anything about federally endangered plants is wrong.

And to make matters worse, the applicant sites as his source, Briton and Brown of 1970 (phonetic). Now, I got my PHD at the New York Botanical Garden and Nathaniel Lord Briton was the founder of the New York Botanical Garden. Nathaniel Lord Briton was born in 1859 and he died in 1934. How could Briton have published in 1970 that this federally endangered plant is not native? This is the type of information that you have been provided with."

Supervisor Villella: "All right. Calm down out there. You've got one more minute. I heard that they gave you an extra five."

Eric Lamont: "No, no. I think I've got two more minutes. I'll-- I mean I have my-- okay, I'll do one more thing here. This will be my last. I'll make one 20 second-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Do you have that to give to the Board?"

Eric Lamont: "Yes. You need it tonight?"

Supervisor Villella: "No. Just make us up a copy-- "

Eric Lamont: "I mean is there a period of 10 days so we can submit this?"

Supervisor Villella: "Oh yes."

Eric Lamont: "Okay. Let me mention one last thing here. Once again, we are here today because a draft environmental impact statement has been submitted. The DEIS lists numerous fresh water wetland plants as occurring on site. If you look at the list provided by the applicant's consultants, you will find numerous fresh water wetland plants listed. Yet, the DEIS concludes that no fresh water wetlands occur on site.

For example, pipewort, bladderwort and cardinal flower are listed by the applicant's consultant as occurring on site. Now, according to the New York State DEC, these three species are obligate wetland plants which means they occur in wetlands 100% of the time. The applicant's consultants include these plants as occurring on site. Not me. These are wetland plants."

Supervisor Villella: "Thirty seconds. Wrap it up."

Eric Lamont: "Okay. In conclusion, the DEIS has provided false, misleading and erroneous information to the Town of Riverhead and has seriously misrepresented the applicant's project to the town. The Town of Riverhead cannot make a determination on impacts of this project upon the environment based upon this false, misleading and erroneous information provided in the DEIS.

We are in a process, gentlemen. The Town of Riverhead must reject the DEIS as being willfully incomplete."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Phil, would you like to clarify a few things that we've been hearing tonight?"

Councilman Cardinale: "Yes. It was just incorrectly stated that the draft environmental impact statement, which is the subject of this study, is the subject of this hearing-- is to discuss the-- what could be better or worse in this particular document, but what I think is unclear to most of the people out there because perhaps you haven't

read this or at least reviewed it as all of us have had that opportunity is the impact of what. And that is why I believe the applicant has put up here these charts and I'd like to just simply indicate what they are so that you are aware of it.

The center chart is the initial application of the applicant which called for the usage of 451 acres, 100 on the south and 350 on the north, for a golf resort, including two golf courses, a hotel, and 25 golf cottages. So that plan I understand to be contingent upon the ability of that 100 acres to be released from the Preservation Program which it is. If it is not released, it is my understanding that this plan will not go forward. That's one-- the first proposal.

The alternative proposals that have been indicated in this draft environmental impact statement so you can answer the question of the impact of what as you address these issues, is on the right is what is considered to be the zoning of right. That this applicant believes in his DEIS that he is entitled to 525 units, residential units, or right and with the transfer of development rights, 738 residential units. That is an alternative plan that he has discussed in several pages of this report.

The final plan-- alternate plan-- is on the far left and that indicates that a golf course-- one golf course-- but 369 residential units. I wanted to point that out because some of the speakers who have spoken have suggested that we're talking about a golf course only and that that would have an impact upon the residential development. In each of these, there is a residential component and the residential component of the far left alternate is suggested at 369 residential units and a golf course.

And I also wanted to underline the point that in the initial proposal, it is conditioned upon that 100 acres coming out of the Suffolk Farmland Program over which this Town Board has absolutely no control and at some point a decision will have to be made by the applicant as to whether they want to pursue that.

So when you consider discussion of the impacts, I think you might want to fashion your analysis as to which of these alternatives you would prefer to see and why and what impacts have not been adequately studied for each-- for any one of those alternatives."

Dick Amper: "Mr. Chairman, this is prejudicial. These are not the alternatives that are being discussed here. These people are

suggesting other alternatives."

Supervisor Villella: "Rich, Rich."

Councilman Cardinale: "As I understand it, Mr. Amper, in this-- and I want to point something out which I think you're addressing-- in this DEIS there are only those three alternatives discussed. In addition, however, there is addressed, which I'm sure you were dissatisfied with in one paragraph, the no action alternative. And the environmental interests are addressed in this fashion.

The only possibility for the realization of no action alternative would be public purchase since the applicants do not intend to leave in its present state. Public purchase of this site is not likely according to the applicant given the fact that this site is not under consideration by federal agencies. It is not being considered by Suffolk County for purchase nor is it on the proposed preservation list of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Department of State.

That may or may not be accurate but it is in this report as an alternative of no action and the alternative of no action is addressed in one paragraph in this report."

Dick Amper: "A further example of the inadequacy-- "

Councilman Cardinale: "I understand. Wait a minute. Excuse me."

Supervisor Villella: "Wait a minute. Let's get this back to normal here."

Councilman Cardinale: "We understand that. But I would-- what I'm saying-- "

Dick Amper: "What is the purpose of-- , Mr. Councilman-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Up here, Dick."

Dick Amper: "Point of order. I don't want to speak. I want to know what Mr. Cardinale's point is."

Councilman Cardinale: "The purpose is simply to clarify that in

this report there are one, two, three and four alternatives. Those are all the alternatives I have seen and each of them has different impacts and different studies that would be required."

Dick Amper: "They are exactly what everybody else has been talking about."

Supervisor Villella: "Hold up, hold up."

Dick Amper: "Every speaker has advocated for a fourth alternative that you're making no reference to. That's prejudicial, Mr. Cardinale."

Supervisor Villella: "No, no, no, no. We're not-- wait a minute, hold up. No, no. Just relax, it's not going that way."

Councilman Cardinale: "Mr. Amper, if anything I am pointing out that the no action-- that you are saying that the no action alternative has not been studied sufficiently. I am suggesting that one paragraph is all that is devoted in here, that it may need additional comment and that the people in the environmental community who wish to address that should do so at this hearing. So I want to clarify that. That's what I'm saying. It's only got a paragraph in here. I was surprised at that but-- and I would also add that the alternative of as of right residential development is only addressed in a relatively short section."

Dick Amper: "If they're going to defer to me for additional time, I want to summarize it very, very briefly-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Could we just-- wait-- you have to wait a minute."

Dick Amper: "I will."

Councilman Cardinale: "The one thing that the Supervisor and I were discussing and want to make also clear is that the golf course alternative, every one of them includes a residential component. We are not considering any plan that includes only a golf course. That's really what I'm trying to say. And if anybody has-- "

Councilman Kent: "Has been presented, that's what you're saying."

Councilman Cardinale: "We're not considering anything in this draft environmental impact statement that says they want to build a golf course and no residences. There are always residences-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We've been hearing it from the people out there, we want to clarify it."

Dick Amper: "Thank you for that clarification. Let me summarize. A lot of-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Whose time are you-- that's what I want to find out. Whose-- "

Unidentified: "Can I have at least one minute of my five minute time?"

Councilman Kent: "No. Either give your time up or-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Did you give your time up already? No. You're the next speaker then. Excuse me, yes-- "

(Unidentified): "Mr. Supervisor, is her card next in the stack, sir?"

Supervisor Villella: "It was."

Councilman Cardinale: "It is because they were together with Eric."

Supervisor Villella: "It was Eric and then his wife."

Dick Amper: "Look. Let me summarize this because it's very, very important to this town that we find common ground and one of the speakers who I never met tonight spoke very eloquently to that. And let me say this. It might be possible not to do either or but to do both. Do the kind of preservation that works for us both environmentally and in terms of our agricultural heritage and also to do right by the Talmages, to do them justice, to make sure that they're properly compensated.

In order to do this we must have facts which speaker after speaker have demonstrated irreputably have not been provided to you. In addition, there are three alternatives in front of you. There must be a dozen or more that ought to be and need to be considered. This

should not be a battle between neighbors, this should not be a battle between the economy and the environment of Riverhead or Long Island. It should be thoughtfully analyzed and the best possible alternative to the all or nothing proposals of some folks on both sides should be addressed. That can only happen if we consider the alternatives. We consider the alternatives and the factual information about what is and what isn't up there. If we all have to get in a car and go up and look to find out what's right, we ought to do it. We're in this predicament because we didn't get good information from an applicant who would forever change the landscape of Riverhead. We need to get the information and then we need to demand of the applicant as is required in law and of ourselves based on sheer reason-- look at every alternative that we can find to serve both the needs of the applicant and of the community."

Supervisor Vilella: "Dick-- Laura, you've got a minute and a half."

Mary Laura Lamont: "Okay. All right. My name is Mary Laura Lamont and I live in Riverhead. I am a ranger naturalist for Fire Island National Seashore. I've worked there on and off for years-- for many years. I'm also a state naturalist for Orient Beach State Park. I'm the education chairperson for the Long Island Botanical Society and I've published on hummingbird behavior in the Town of Riverhead.

I'm also the compiler of the Orient Point Christmas count. I've been counting birds since I've been a kid. I've been doing these counts for years, I know birds.

The DEIS is what I want to address my comments on. The DEIS submitted by Drew Associates (phonetic) is inadequate and completely incomplete. And I'm going to really abbreviate everything I had to say-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "You've got 30 seconds-- "

Mary Laura Lamont: "Oh gosh. You're making it hard. But, I will, I will. Okay. First off, Chapter 3, page 83, the American beech is very tolerant of salt spray, the (inaudible) on the Sound and those of the sunken forest on Fire Island are evidence to that. I am a ranger on Fire Island, have been for years. There is not American beech on Fire Island National Seashore. You people may not know that because maybe you're not concerned in the environmental movement as we

are. We know our stuff. There's no beech forest as the consultant said on Fire Island National Seashore and if you didn't know that, you would think reading this document that there is one there. There isn't. That's one inconsistency. All of these pages are inconsistencies."

Supervisor Villella: "Laura, can you submit that to the Town Board?"

Mary Laura Lamont: "I will as soon as I type it up within the next couple of days. This is a hummingbird nest. See it? It's about an inch long. It was taken at the Grandifolia Sandhills. There are hummingbirds in the sandhills. For the applicant to say that they don't exist, is wrong. It's false, it's not true. Hummingbirds exist. They nest in the sandhills and this was taken from the sandhills and this is proof and yet in this document it says they're not there."

Supervisor Villella: "Laura, thank you very much."

Mary Laura Lamont: "You're welcome. Mary Laura."

Supervisor Villella: "Mary Laura, I'm sorry. Ann McQuade."

Ann McQuade: "Hello. My name is Ann McQuade and I live next door to the Talmages on the east side. First of all, I would like to read a statement from Paul Adams who is out of the country and couldn't be here tonight. He asked me to read it for him.

My name is Paul Adams. I am a biology professor at SUNY Stony Brook, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a MacArthur laureate (so called genius award). I have lived in Riverhead since 1992 where I have taken a special interest in hummingbirds. Even expert bird watchers are often surprised to learn that hummingbirds still breed on Long Island and are concentrated on Riverhead's north shore.

The assertions in the environmental impact statement that hummingbirds do not nest in the Talmage woods is mistaken. I have personally observed and photographed hummingbird nests on branches of the dwarf beech trees along the north edge of that property. Hummingbirds visit flowers in the Grandifolia Sandhills such as pinxter and columbine, but when nesting they mostly catch insects. Many similar errors may exist in the DEIS which no one as yet had time to thoroughly study. While ruby throated hummingbirds are not

official endangered, they are blue listed by the Audubon Society. Their breeding is an excellent indicator of pristine habitat and they are a beautiful asset of which Riverheaders can be proud.

Only a very carefully planned and extensively modified golf resort proposal would allow hummingbirds to continue to flourish in this forest. I urge that the Town Board require that Traditional Links submit a detailed plan that specifies just how the dwarf beech forest and its hummingbirds can be completely protected before granting a zone change. Intelligent planning could create a small golf resort that is nationally recognized for its beauty and ecological sensitivity and that brings renown to Riverhead for great golf and spectacular hummingbirds.

Now I would like to make my own statement. As I said, I own property adjoining the Talmages, directly to their east. Because of my location, I am particularly concerned about certain golf course maintenance practices such as the intensive use of pesticides and herbicides. If the golf course plan is approved, these chemicals through the normal action of wind and run-off, will almost certainly pass across the property line at times, causing damage to plants and animals on my land.

But most of all, I'm concerned about the land itself. For almost 50 years now my family and I have had the privilege of looking out on Friar's Head and on that big stretch of cliff and forest with Long Island Sound sparkling down below. After all these years, I know as well as anyone perhaps how very beautiful this land is in its present natural wild state.

I've always been friendly with the Talmages and I certainly understand their wish to increase the financial return on their property. I continue to believe, however, that a way can be found to do this without breaking up that unique and beautiful forest. I am told that environmental groups have funds available and would like to discuss various possible arrangements that could benefit everyone, the Talmages, the community of Riverhead and especially the land itself by preserving as much as is possible of its cliffs and ravines, its woods and animal life.

If such a plan can be worked out, I would definitely be interested in contributing a major part of my own acreage. But if there is no such agreement with the Talmages, I am increasingly doubtful about trying to do anything of this sort on my own. If you

are going to preserve wilderness, I'm told you must preserve quite a lot of it. A fragment just doesn't work.

What is needed here in other words, in my opinion, is a cooperative effort. Therefore, I want to suggest for the time being, the Town Board put off its vote on any zoning change and let the parties concerned sit down together and very seriously explore all the possibilities. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Barbara Grattan: "Ms. McQuade, could you submit you statement to us, please?"

Ann McQuade: "Yes."

Barbara Grattan: "So we can add it to the record."

Councilman Kent: "And Mr. Adams' letter, I believe, also."

Ann McQuade: "Do you want Mr. Adams, too?"

Supervisor Villella: "Yes, please. The next speaker will be James Golden."

James Golden: "I'm James Golden, a life-long resident of Riverhead and I think that allowing a golf course to be built in Baiting Hollow would do the town a lot of good. A lot of the past Town Boards have voted on things but they've only gone about it halfheartedly and to go about this halfheartedly wouldn't be a good idea. I think you should allow Mr. Talmage to build what he wants to build up there. We'll have a first class golf course. You'll have major tournaments, it's true. But the town can use all this business by having major tournaments and big name golf players. I think the town would benefit greatly. It might be the awakening of this town. It's almost gone dormant. I've seen this town slowly decay year after year, just wasting away. The courthouse is in such bad shape, they let it crumble, the steps. And the west end of the county seems to get all the court buildings now. It seems like they're taking things away from us. So-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We'll be getting some back though."

James Golden: "I think this would revitalize the town and get

it going again. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Jason Siracusa. Is that the right pronouncement?"

Jason Siracusa: "Siracusa. I've been asked to read these comments on the DEIS Traditional Links on behalf of Professor John Black. Professor Black was prepared to speak at the public hearing on January 5, 1999 when he was informed that the public hearing had been changed to January 28, 1999. He cleared his calendar once again prepared to speak. However he has expressed great displeasure in this third change in the day of the public hearing and is unable to speak in person due to a prior commitment.

Following brief comments on the geological in the above captioned draft EIS. A discussion of the origin of the sediments is somewhat simplistic and for the most part not relevant to the major questions raised previously. Of greater importance, regardless of the origin of the sediments composing them, are the landforms such as the (inaudible) and the dune forming to the northwest of this blowout. As noted previously, these landforms are now quite uncommon on Long Island.

Although they may be remnants of a once larger system of (inaudible) dunes located on coastal bluffs, development has eliminated most of these geomorphic features leaving these as a last example of such systems in New York State. Such features within the study are not (inaudible) but have been recognized in the classic study of (inaudible) as early as 1914. Moreover, the dune presently forming to the northwest indicates that such geomorphic processes are ongoing, thus the area is a valuable geologic resource.

In conclusion, the (inaudible) section of the DEIS is largely irrelevant and completely fails to address the pertinent questions raised during the public scoping session. The DEIS should be rejected by the Town of Riverhead as incomplete.

On a personal note, this is a defining moment in your young political career. Traditional Links is handing you a rope. Either you can pull yourself to safety or you can hang yourself with it. I think the Town Board should think long and hard before giving this destructive mess its stamp of approval. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Do you have that letter from-

- we'd like to keep that-- "

Jason Siracusa: "Mr. Hanley had received a copy of it-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We need a copy for the-- you do, okay.
Josh Clamberg (phonetic)."

Jill Lewis: "Josh isn't here. I'm going to read the statement for him, if that's okay. Josh is with the New York League of Conservation Voters and he asked that I read this into the record. I'm Jill Lewis.

As the nonpartisan political arm of the environmental community, the New York League of Conservation Voters seeks to make environmental protection a top priority with New York elected officials, political candidates, businesses and voters. New York League of Conservation Voters is the only organization in New York State to work exclusively on the electoral policies on behalf of the environment.

New York League of Conservation Voters is opposed to the Traditional Links golf course and hotel proposal on the Grandifolia Sandhills. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation's Natural Heritage Group, the Grandifolia Sandhills is a globally rare migrating dune system. Such distinctive lands should be protected, not lost to development. There are several methods of acquiring environmentally sensitive lands in New York State to protect them from development which have not been explored in this case. In addition, New York League of Conservation Voters is vehemently opposed to removing any land from the county's Farmland Protection Program, as proposed by Traditional Links. Land protection programs are meaningless if any of the protected land is allowed to be developed.

New York League of Conservation Voters monitors the environmental actions of elected officials throughout the state and will seriously consider decisions made on this issue when making endorsements in the coming elections.

And I also just want to make a comment myself. I just think it's a shame that there's so much scientific data to be presented tonight by other speakers who aren't allowed to present this with the five minute time line. And I'm hoping that the Board will consider this information at some time from-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We need that written letter, too, Jill.

Thank you. Helen Zurawinsky."

Helen Zurawinsky: "Hi. My name is Helen Zurawinsky. I am reading this statement of behalf of Save Our Open Spaces Now.

We apologize for not being in attendance this evening. We have asked that the following statement be read into the record.

We are aware you are considering accepting the draft environmental impact study prepared by developers for the Talmage property. We ask that you do not accept this study as complete until it adequately addresses those points laid out in the scoping document for the Talmage property which includes environmental impact on air, groundwater and land as well as indigenous animal and plant life, unique ecological environment. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you, Helen. Could we have a copy of that, please? John Potente."

John Potente: "My name is John Potente. I'm on the Executive Board of the Long Island Botanical Society. And I'm also the Director of (inaudible) engineering project dealing with plant pathology up at the State University of New York at Syracuse in their College Environmental Science and Forestry. I've read through that 1,000 page environmental impact study and I've been reviewing scientific documents for 15 years now. That was probably the most amazing 1,000 pages of gibberish I've ever seen. It was just filled with inconsistencies, blatant omissions and full of false information.

But it's not surprising since it was-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "You have to address the Board."

John Potente: "I'm sorry."

Supervisor Vilella: "That's all right, John."

John Potente: "The Long Island Botanical Society-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "No, at us-- not them."

John Potente: "But you told me-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "They don't make the decisions. They just

give us the information."

John Potente: "The Long Island Botanical Society has been basically a non-political group of-- largely consisting of university level members, botanists, and PHD's. They've been documenting and inventorying rare plants and rare habitats on Long Island for their entire history. This particular issue so concerns them that they have come forward and taken an official stance for the first time to say that this is certainly something on Long Island which needs to be saved.

The Nature Conservancy with 25,000 members on Long Island and close to a million members throughout the country, has the finest staff of ecologists that are constantly being referenced and referred and consulted by government agencies. They stand behind the fact that there are many rare habitats within this particular locale.

I am not a member of-- I am not a resident of Riverhead. I do not live here and I have to think to myself, why am I here and why are you people here? I came out here to reinforce the fact that Riverhead has something very valuable here. While people are trying to save the rain forest a continent away, you people here in Riverhead have five unique habitats that are working in conjunction with one another on the north shore of Long Island, something very valuable that you should cherish. Yes, if Robert Moses was alive today, he would look to save that. He would look to make that a state park. And, yes, county officials and state officials are considering that for funding.

I think those are not the only two issues which should be addressed, those two-- those quick renderings that are up there. There should be many. The main point is the environmental impact study that I have reviewed is outright-- is an outrage and should be further studied. The Town of Riverhead and you members of the Town Board now have a unique opportunity to show the members of Riverhead that you understand the value of having something so important in your midst where you can raise the prestige of Riverhead, you can raise the value of tourism without an extensive outlay of funding, you can raise the value of having this treasure chest right in your midst for future generations to study in outdoor education."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thirty seconds, John. Go ahead."

John Potente: "Okay. The people of Riverhead should understand

there should be a compromise that's worked out. The impact study should be scrapped for all I'm concerned and redone by an impartial person who is not paid to deliver such a false package of goods. Realize what you have and for God's sake, this is something that cannot be replaced. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, John. Rick-- wait a minute. Is that his picture? Whose picture is it? Rick Wilhau (phonetic). Is Rick here? I'll put him towards the bottom. I'll ask again later."

Councilman Kent: "He's gone."

Supervisor Villella: "Steven Torens (phonetic)."

Steven Torens: "Good evening. I'm Steven Torens from Calverton, actually Baiting Hollow. I live right next door to the property in question. You know, usually when people address a forum such as this and attempt to sway a decision, they introduce themselves as experts in a noted field, long time associates or friend or family member, a noted community leader or a masters degree holder of some special function.

I would like to begin my statement by telling you who I am not. I'm not a golfer, I don't own a sports store, I'm not a degreed scientist, I have a high school education, and I work for a living. I'm not a long time associate of the Talmage family nor have I ever worked for them. I'm just a Baiting Hollow resident who has an opinion based upon my view of common sense.

Major facts are blinded by emotions that build up too strong to allow individuals to look at all angles of an issue. I do know one major fact that remains that unless I am mistaken everyone in this room should realize. That is as the present zoning exists without change, housing developments can begin construction tomorrow on this same parcel that so many want to keep all natural. This can be done without controversy and without hearings or my say so or yours.

I feel that a resort of that nature lends itself to be more in control of its surroundings than any development can offer. My own development has regular (inaudible) riding off road vehicles into the woods and up to the bluffs to hunt, hike and who knows what. I would be very-- excuse me-- a controlled facility I feel lends itself to maintain security of its surroundings and also would be very visible

to the community's concern to identify what chemicals are dumped on the ground. I can't tell you what my neighbor puts on his lawn but I can sure go to Town Hall to look at an inspection report.

People are so concerned with environmental impact. Does that mean that my house on the old Thompson Farm next to Warner Nursery had no impact? I remember after I moved into my new house that we had hoards of toads and frogs every spring. There were so many on the lawn that I spent a good hour relocating them so that they wouldn't get caught underneath my lawnmower. My neighbors used to complain of the frogs and snakes that used to get caught in their drywells and they would have to scoop them out with buckets. I haven't seen any in two years. I can only guess that between my neighbors and I trying to maintain a tick free environment for our kids, and the change of the land, that something happened to them. So who's to blame? Is it me? Not to mention the casualties of the lawnmower.

So far for me to cast stones at others would make me feel that much more foolish. For anyone to say that they are professionals in judging the impact of others obviously never flushed a toilet, fertilized a lawn, or sprayed for ticks.

The Talmage family has made a decision to reevaluate their farming heritage. That is their right. I do not expect anybody to tell me what to do for a living. So I would not tell them what they should do for theirs.

As a neighbor to a particular parcel in question, I would rather see a facility such as a golf resort so that the environment is controlled, wastewater and fertilizers are overseen by the authorities. The houses that would be built meant that more human waste would be pumped into the environment daily. I think we all know where cesspools are. There would be more trespassing on the sensitive waterfront property. I also feel that the Sandhills would probably be trampled upon and destroyed in a lot quicker manner due to recreational vehicles and hikers. I, myself, know of a few people that were caught on the Talmage family property hiking, hunting and a few other things.

Traffic on Sound Avenue seems to be increasing every year. More people are finding this a direct route to points east and bypass Route 58 which I call the horror highway. Another development will increase the daily traffic dilemma, increase the safety risk and also burden more and more the school district bus barn to deliver the kids in a

timely fashion. My kids now are always late, by the way.

The district taxpayers do not want to pass a school budget and are frowning upon a construction bond for bigger schools but they are willing to allow a development to be built which will put more children in portable classrooms. And I'm welcoming everybody to drive up and down Roanoke Avenue and up Osborn to see the portable classrooms that kindergartners have to go into because the taxpayers in this town don't know what to do.

As a neighbor of the Talmage property I do support their solution, I do think that both sides could come to a table given the amount of expertise to come to some sort of agreement on what should be done in the best possible manner.

In good case, it could play a vital role in the community and offer the best protection for the environment. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Bruce Hurley."

Bruce Hurley: "The other mike, okay. How's that? My name is Bruce Hurley and I'm from Huntington and I'm a long way from home. Let's talk about that. I'm retired-- been retired for 10 years and I used to work for Grumman and I had the pleasure frequently to work out at the Calverton facility so I think that kind of makes me an honorary resident of Riverhead."

Supervisor Villella: "That's right."

Bruce Hurley: "I come tonight and I certainly thank you for letting me speak this way, but I come to you as a pseudo golfer, I fancy I'm a golfer among other things. I've been playing golf, man and boy for 50 years and I'm a 17 handicap. That makes me a bogey golfer. That means-- you folks that are familiar with that, I do one thing wrong on every hole. Perhaps if I live another 50 years I'll straighten all that out.

But I want to speak from the point of view of a golfer. John Potente invited me to speak and he showed me a picture of this area and I wasn't familiar with what the site was. It was a small picture. He says what do you think of this Bruce? And I said, well, it was a picture of a lot of scrub oak or scrubby things and foliage and a lot of trees and things and in the background was the water. And I said, gee, John, I would hate to have to hit a golf ball into that stuff and

try to find it because I don't think I'd come out alive. It looks like a lot of (inaudible) to me. So he said, well, how about the scenery? I said well, that's nice, too, but I never thought about that. He said well, from a golfer's point of view, how does a golfer look at a project like this? I said, well, John, I know you don't play golf so let me tell you. Golf is a matter of learning a very difficult fundamental game which is very difficult to master, and then going out and seeing how well you mastered that. (Inaudible) process. You do this all along, you learn, you go out and practice.

I was fortunate enough to play once in St. Andrews in Scotland. St. Andrews is like a prairie, there are no trees, there's some scrubby oak out there, very deep potholes, wide greens, and you can see the Irish Sea out in the back. Difficult golf course. I was fortunate enough to shoot 83, I could have shot 183, it was raining that day. And I talked to the groundskeeper. I said how did you manage to make such a nice course like this? He said, we didn't do anything to it. We just left it the way it was. We found it this way 200 years ago, we flattened some greens, dug deep potholes, and left it the way it was.

So my point is that an average golfer all he looks for in a golf course is a level surface, greens that don't-- are reasonably true and don't fall into the rough, and tees that (inaudible) potential hooks by accident. So a real golfer looks for that, he doesn't need really all the sophistication that may come with this kind of a layout which looks rather fancy to me.

So if under the guise of taking a big bite out of nature, which looks like you're going to do, without considering the (inaudible) and all the other things, you're not doing that for the average golfer. Golfers-- you know what a (phonetic) is? When you hit a golf ball properly you take a piece of turf out. A good golfer will go get that piece of turf and put it back where he got it from and within two months you'll never know he hit the ball there. When you take big chunks out of the environment like that, I'm not sure you can replace it. You take tons of earth out, it's very difficult to put it back. So you are going to give a lot of thought before you do that.

The Scotch have an expression which says golfers really are good walkers, spoiled. I think you've heard that. So if you just took to walk and forgot about the golf, you'd be great. Now I don't exactly hold with that but I'd like to suggest that I would never want to get the reputation as a golfer for saying that by indiscriminately picking

a site and doing bad things to it environmentally that (inaudible) get the reputation of not only being a (inaudible) but nature spoiled. Thank you very much for your time."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Dave Resney. Dave Resney. I'll put it on the bottom. Les Serken."

Les Serken: "Good evening. I'm Les Serken. I'm an Emeritus Professor of Earth Science at Adelphi University. I have spent a good number of years studying the geology of Long Island; I have many students that study the geology of Long Island and I was asked by the Traditional Links LLC to review the geology section of the DEIS that Aram Terchunian had presented to you earlier.

I did that and I agree for the most part with the work that Aram has done except that I would make some amplification of his comments. We agree that the property is located in part in a recessional moraine of the last glaciation. This has been referred to tonight. We refer to this moraine as the Roanoke Point Moraine and it dates from about 20,000 years ago. At the time, the moraine was over a mile in width, north to south, and across the surface after the ice receded, winds carried sand and silt onto the remaining portions of the moraine and to the outwash plain to the south.

Over the years, 20,000 years, and particularly the last 12,000 years since sea level rose to that position, the moraine has been eroded to the condition that we see today. But most, if not all of the surface of the moraine was formed during glaciation or shortly thereafter and this includes sand bodies, silt bodies, water-- excuse me, glacial lake deposits as well as the glacial moraine itself. There's abundant evidence of glacial activity that formed this moraine and also the meltwater from the glacier that formed the topography to the south.

As far as any possibility that the surface of this feature has been altered in recent years that the sand bodies are of recent vintage, there's no evidence that this could possibly happen. Aram pointed out that the sand bodies were made of sands that are associated with glaciers, not sands that are associated with beach deposits and in samples that I have taken a look at there was no evidence of beach material in those samples. In other words, there was no shell for example present and the sands were definitely angular and of glacial origin.

As far as the comments by John Black that there is a sandhill forming at the present time on the northwest portion of the property, there is a small blowout at that position and a small sand body matching the width and dimensions of that blowout has been deposited. But this is in no way the same process that formed the topography of the moraine itself. It's true, the wind continues to blow. The wind is not carrying sand from the beach up 200 feet into the hills. The sand that's in the hills is the sand that was carried there or brought there after the glacier melted. Thank you for your time."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you. Dr. Robert Johnson. No. Sister Jeanne Clark."

Sister Jeanne Clark: "My name is Sister Jeanne Clark. I'm a Dominican Sister and my congregation has lived and ministered on Long Island since 1876. And I see Long Island as a whole starting from Brooklyn all the way out to Orient. And often we think, you know, that we are talking about Riverhead, which I know you, as a Board, need to consider, but I think it's been said here tonight this is a national issue and a global issue. And I began about five years ago a non-for-profit corporation called Homecoming, coming home to Long Island and I meant with a new consciousness. And I sense that consciousness in this room tonight. It's been perfect for me to hear the wonderful comments made here tonight because the gentleman who said we're in a process-- a legal process and that's true. But I think we're even in a broader process than that. I think we're in a process of redefining community and we're defining it including the hummingbird. And that's very important. I really would like to say I feel passionate about it, that unless we redefine community and include the water and the trees and the hummingbirds, we will destroy the planet because that's what our pathology is. Thinking that the human community is it."

Someone mentioned the American dream. Well, the American dream has been a nightmare not only for some people living in other countries, even for our own children, redefining them as consumers. But certainly nightmares for trees who I think if we could hear them scream, we wouldn't be able to sleep. And a nightmare for the hummingbirds and other things that we just wipe out.

So I think that what's happening here tonight is really profound. That we are redefining community and including the hummingbird, the water, the moraine and to say that we are part of that community, only a part, and that our decisions need to be in relationship to that

whole community.

That beautiful family who came up here. I think what they were saying is that they want their children to grow up in a community that includes stars so that the electric lights don't prevent them from knowing. Imagine the stars, because that's where we were born. We were born in those stars, that's who we are. And I think we are at a point in our history that's very profound and you, as a Board, I would just hope that you would have that consciousness. Because if you do, we can transform Long Island. So I would just like to say that I think the other part of it was that we as a human community, we don't have to have any win-loses. All the people who spoke for compromise and looking at all the alternatives, because when we include the whole community, the global community which includes all of life, we are members of a web of life. That's not just an illusion, that's the truth. And if we make decisions that way, we will wipe out this kind of divisions amongst us. So I would just hope that somehow we could do this together that way. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Is it Frank Palmer? Is that correct? Palmer, okay. I'm sorry. Put my glasses on, maybe it's better."

Frank Palmer: "My name is Frank Palmer and I live in Southampton. And I've been watching this project a little bit and, you know, I built a house about 10 years ago and it was in Woodland and we had a few deer on it; we had some dwarf beech trees and basically what dwarf beech trees are they-- they're beech trees that are unfortunate enough to land in sand, they don't get enough water. And we're there about 10 years and those beech trees are about three foot high. And I guess maybe they're rare, but they're everywhere. Wherever they don't get enough water, that's what you have."

We now have hummingbirds on the property in spite of the house so I kind of think that this project will not affect dwarf beech trees; I don't think it will affect hummingbirds. I think hummingbirds will continue to come there and I think Riverhead would reap huge economic benefits from that project.

The one in the center, that's the core Krenshaw (phonetic) design. If you watched golf this weekend, they were in Hawaii and they were on a Krenshaw golf course and it was just beautiful. And that's what that is right there. If you let that escape, you're doing a tremendous disservice to this community. I don't know the family or

the background that well. I've met them, I spoke to them just briefly about this project, but that is a gem and that should not be allowed to escape us. It will bring tremendous dollars to this community. Golf courses do not hurt the environment. They do not hurt wildlife establishment. Wildlife live on the edge of woodland. They go to the woodland for shelter, they come to the edge to eat. Grass is what deer eat, all the small animals that will survive on that grassland. The hawks will come to get them. There is no case to be made by anybody that the wildlife will be less on that property because of the golf course. And I'm available to take anybody that wants to go to a series of golf courses to show them the thriving wildlife.

Pesticide usage. The sod that's on that ground now takes a tremendous amount of nitrogen. It's just part of the business. You have to put a lot of nitrogen to get that product to turn over in 14 months. It's okay. That's just the way it is. When you grow turf on a golf course, you grow it for roots. You want that grass to take less nitrogen. The pesticides are much less used on a golf course than any of the agricultural uses.

Quoting a letter in last week's Southampton Press, and I've checked these figures, they're-- vineyards use about 55 acres of active ingredient per acre-- 55 pounds of active ingredient per acre. Potato farms use about 40, golf courses according to the Sgt. General's report-- Attorney General's report use about 15. So they're using less. They're not hurting the environment as much as what we're doing with that property now. So I don't-- I just do not understand how this long line of people have come in here and objected to that little tiny spot on the map and it's like wherever you propose a project, that becomes the environmental center of the universe. That entire bluff all the way along that Sound has the same characteristics as this little tiny site. When you look at that huge map, that's just one little spot. Some areas along that bluff have been developed and some haven't. It would be nice to preserve some of them but that golf course right there-- not the little-- not the one on the side, not the housing project, that golf course right there is what this town should build. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Marcia Slatcum. Is that correct? Slatcum, I'm sorry."

Marcia Slatcum: "I live in Shoreham. My name is Marcia Slatcum. I'm a high school teacher and a landlord. So I'm not opposed to making money or getting ahead. But I believe in choosing

projects with an eye to preserving that which is unique and building on that which will not be irreparably degraded if you change it.

Now the building of a golf course and residence necessitates the revamping, the redesigning, the remodeling of land. Why should this globally rare parcel be subjected to such manipulation? We have so little pristine, complex, beautiful wilderness. Why should we allow it to be destroyed?

I beg you to do two things. First, go see it and walk in it and experience it because it's a very wonderful place. Second, please encourage the Talmage family to negotiate with the state, the county, the federal agencies for public purchase so that they can get just monetary compensation for their acreage. Then they can build their golf course in a more suitable place.

With all due respect to your geologists, the sandhills are not a commonplace place. They're just not commonplace.

The Talmage has been on Long Island for a long time, that's true, but that beech forest has been there a lot longer. It goes back to the time of who knows. Remember once you tame it, once you remodel it, once you design it, once you cut it up, you're not going to be able to replace it or restore it anywhere, anymore, ever. Thank you."

Councilman Kent: "We have three cards from the applicant. Did you want to go now or did you want to wait until the end?"

Supervisor Villella: "Did Mr. Jackson want to do it now?"

Councilman Kent: "Dr. Robert Johnson. Okay, the next card I have is Ron Abrams. Okay. So let's go with Ken Bakst."

Supervisor Villella: "You would like to speak."

Kenneth Bakst: "My name is Kenneth Bakst and I'm the Managing Member of Traditional Links. When we started this process, we engaged Dr. Ron Abrams of Drew Associates to study this property and to prepare the DEIS and as he got into it, we decided to bring the distinguished Dr. Bob Johnson, Professor Emeritus at Hofstra on board to assist with the field work and analysis and then when Dr. Abrams and Dr. Johnson's initial field work led them to believe that something other than sand blowing up off from the beach and the face of the bluff was involved in the evolution of these hills, they

recommended to me that we engage a coastal geologist to assess this site's geology in the interests of presenting the true facts and accurate science. Which is exactly what we did by engaging Aram Terchunian of First Coastal.

In reviewing Mr. Terchunian's report, he kept citing work done by somebody named Circun (phonetic) in 1995 so I asked him who that was because I didn't know and he informed me that Dr. Circun is an expert in Long Island geology and glacial geology, Professor Emeritus, and founder of the Earth Sciences Department at Adelphi and the author of this book published in 1995 entitled Eastern Long Island Geology for Field Trips and you heard from him a little earlier.

With all the talk and hysteria about migrating dunes, I really wanted to make sure that we got this issue so at the risk of insulting Mr. Terchunian, I asked Dr. Circun to make a field visit to our site and review Mr. Terchunian's work. In effect I was looking for the equivalent of a second opinion before getting operated on.

Now the purpose in telling this story is twofold. First, it goes to show that despite what you've heard here tonight, we have gone to great lengths to make sure that we have presented accurate and credible scientific evidence regarding this property. And, second, it goes to show that the opposition's allegations that we merely hire and pay people to say what we wanted and needed them to say is completely untrue.

As is required by SEQRA, we were seeking and will continue to seek the truth regardless of whether its consequences are good or bad and any substantive comments that provide verifiable and constructive contributions to our DEIS will be included as part of the FEIS. We're fully aware that a draft EIS is just that, a draft. And people who haven't put one of these things together shouldn't be so quick to cast stones, because to expect that 1,000 pages could be put together without any mistakes, and without any omissions, it's unreasonable. Any items that are found to require further work or revision are intended to be resolved in the final EIS which you will have before you and must take into account for a decision on this project is reached. That is the purpose of the SEQRA process.

Unfortunately, some of what we've heard from the opposition, and I want to make sure I emphasize the word some, to date, has been nothing more than fiction, rhetoric, and hyperbole. First they created the name Grandifolia Sandhills attempting to create the false

impression that these hills were of the "Grandifolia" classification and that, therefore, they were protected when, in fact, there was no such name in any environmental laws or regulations or scientific literature. And then they associated that name with a globally rare New York State natural heritage program tag trying to again create the false impression that the entire hills were globally rare when, in fact, they knew that only the maritime dwarf beech forest on the steep face of the bluff where we are not proposing any development, had been characterized as globally rare by the natural heritage program.

And, then, when they had to acknowledge that, in fact, yes, they had recently made up the Grandifolia Sandhills name, they went back on the offensive and claimed that just because they made up the name, it doesn't mean that the inland forest where we are proposing some development, isn't, in fact, globally rare. Well, the reason that the inland forest isn't globally rare has nothing to do with the fact that they made up a name, but rather with the facts and science of this property.

The science is all that should matter since SEQRA is about fact, not fiction. And I want to point out that while you've been presented with high quality science from reputable and well qualified geologists about the glacial origin of these hills, you have not yet heard from one single geologist that takes issue with geologic conclusions presented in this DEIS. To the contrary, much of what you have heard and read is nothing more than an environmental fairy tale with respect to these Grandifolia Sandhills. Well, it's time for the public relations to stop. It's time for facts, not rhetoric, not hyperbole, not fiction. We've been in the public domain now for over a year. The comment period is running so now is the time to present good and credible science and to make substantive comments to the EIS and to those we will respond in the FEIS.

I'd like to make one last comment about the process before making two other points. Back at the August 3rd informational hearing, in response to the personal attacks that had been made on members of the Talmage family, I requested in this room that we try to keep this discussion and debate on a factual and professional level and stay away from the (inaudible) of the individuals involved and now, once again, both in the press and again here tonight people have been getting personal and attacking the credibility and the integrity of the experts that we have engaged. Good, hard working people. Solely because they don't like the conclusions that they have reached. That, in my opinion, is just plain wrong. If you disagree with any of the

conclusions that these good, hard working people have reached, then show us the evidence to the contrary. Let us respond to it in the FEIS. But to even allege that these experts would compromise their integrity and professional responsibility on this one project is not only insulting but it's completely unfair to them and their profession.

I think it's important for you to know that Traditional Links is not a classic contract vendee with little or no money invested in this land until all necessary permits are received. We have millions of dollars invested in this land and the cost associated with this project's planning and entitlement process. And as such we are committed to the development of this land and intend to proceed with its development regardless of whether or not-- regardless of whether or not we receive the change of zone that we have requested.

Now regarding all this talk about preservation. Everybody should remember that unless there's a condemnation of this property, preservation is a voluntary (inaudible) and we have no intention of selling this property or impairing its development rights. And consequently the only issue the Town of Riverhead to focus on at this time is whether it wants the property to be developed in accordance with its existing zoning or pursuant to one of the golf alternatives that we have presented. This talk by Mr. Amper that there are many more-- I think he said 12 but, you know, I don't remember exactly-- many more alternatives is irrelevant. We assessed the alternatives that were identified in the scoping for this project. The four alternatives that we have assessed were the four alternatives-- and the only four alternatives for which we were scoped in this project.

And to you, Phil, you know, I just want to respond to your comments that we didn't give adequate time to the no build alternative, the reason we didn't spend a lot of time for the no build alternative is that this property in the eyes of this landowner is not for sale. The no action alternative is not an alternative for this applicant. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Councilman Kent: "Bill Talmage."

Bill Talmage: "My name is Bill Talmage. I had a big, long prepared statement and you'll be happy to learn that I'm not going to use it. A couple things. One, I believe there was a letter received

by the Town from the School District and I would like to have that read into the record tonight if you have that. Also, all I would like to really say is that I've noticed an interesting thing. There's a tremendous campaign going on here. I didn't know there were that many out of town environmentalists groups until tonight.

The other thing is I've noticed our property-- we have some trees on our property that have been pronounced globally rare in a small area of our property. I've seen it turn into and just in the discussion up here tonight, into globally rare *Grandifolia* Sandhills and now I heard one person say our whole farm is globally rare. It seems to be expanding to go from some trees that are globally rare to some hills that they admit they made up in this area and that's something that became globally rare and now my whole farm is globally rare. I think that as Kenny said, the science is important and this is a draft impact statement and any substantive comments will be addressed. But I just would like to try keep the expansion of these tags from happening because it's getting bigger and bigger and next thing my house will be globally rare, so thanks."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Bill."

Councilman Kent: "Dr. Ron Abrams, would you like to speak now or forever hold your peace?"

Dr. Ron Abrams: "I would say my responses are going to be extensive in writing the comments and I won't take anybody's time."

Councilman Kent: "Edgar Goodale."

Supervisor Villella: "You asked for that to be read into the record, Bill? Okay."

Edgar Goodale: "My name is Edgar Goodale, I live on Sound Avenue immediately east, adjacent to this property here. I believe if I want to be very simplistic if I understand it correctly, that if we don't do anything, this property can be developed into hundreds of homes on this particular parcel. And on behalf of every employee of every building supply supplier, every carpenter, every roofer, I wish them Godspeed. But unfortunately I don't believe that is their direction that they're heading and so if they're not going to go ahead with the development of the homes, I certainly as a neighbor, am completely in favor of such a project that they have proposed here. There is a God given right to property owners to do with their

property what is legally, morally, and reasonably practical. And all of those apply here to this project and common sense should prevail and this project should go on because it is good for the neighbors, it is good for the town and it is good for our economy. Thank you."

Councilman Kent: "Dan Morris."

Dan Morris: "Good evening, my name is Dan Morris and I'm on the Board of Directors of the Open Space Council. The biggest flaw that I found in this draft environmental impact statement is its failure to clearly state just which option it was addressing. Is the south 101 acres in or out? There is no discussion of the procedure to get this parcel out of the Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Program or to identify the new parcels which the sponsors have proposed for equal transfer of development rights.

The impacts discussed are only about the 350 acres north of Sound Avenue and yet throughout the discussion it continuously refers to the golf resort which includes the 500 room hotel. Isn't the hotel predicated on the eventual use of the south parcel for 18 holes of golf?

If the south parcel is out that should have been clearly stated and a better job done evaluating the remaining options. If it's in, then the DEIS fails to fulfill the requirements outlined in the final scope of issues that the sponsors were directed to address. Indeed it is such a glaring omission and segmentation of the proposal that we wonder why the DEIS was accepted as complete without this issue being clarified.

For the purposes of our review of the document, we assume that the original plan is still moving forward despite the lack of involvement of the Suffolk County Legislature which will have to decide on the fate of the south parcel.

In addition to the failure to address the conservation easement in favor of Suffolk County, the DEIS also fails to consider other scoping issues including but not limited to:

The discussion of the existence of other coastal dune sites in order to determine their rarity is inadequate. It barely mentions them but doesn't provide locations, size or descriptions of the other sites.

2. It fails to address the value of the upland forest and the impact of clearing certain portions to the identified value. The discussion on the forest fragmentation and edge effects is limited. It fails to consider these woodlands in the context of the adjacent woods with which it shares a mostly closed canopy. These woodlands which run along the bluffs from Wading River to Southold and however fragmented are Riverhead's largest woodlands outside of the Pine Barrens.

3. It fails to provide a field verified listing of the wildlife present. The list presented in the DEIS and the accompanying discussion is inadequate. The consultants have been studying this site for ten years and they can't produce something better than this. Definitely it was one of the worst ones I think I've ever read. I'm sorry.

4. Fails to address the hydrologic processes and the environmental fate of sanitary waste, pesticides and fertilizers as they move within aquifers and contaminate groundwater supply. And some of these are quotes from the scope document, not my words at all. But it fails to discuss the related public health issues. It fails to adequately describe and discuss the sewage treatment plant operations for the hotel.

5. In addition to the omission of discussion of the south parcel, the DEIS does not contain a discussion of the number of acres of agricultural land to non-agricultural use and compare this area to the acreage of farmland currently in production within the town. Again, that's a quote from the scope-- the issues-- scoping issues.

6. Fails to provide an adequate discussion of the architecture for the proposed hotel, clubhouse, cottages and residences and its conformance with the surrounding historic corridor.

7. Should provide a chart of compliance with the various plans for the different alternatives. Fails to discuss beach access whether on site or off site by the patrons of the hotel.

8. The no action alternative is not equal to the as of right alternative and should be more fully discussed. The as of right alternative fails to consider cluster design and we believe erroneously inflates population by acquiring transfer of development rights from unidentified parcels. If these parcels are from within the Riverhead School District then the onerous impact that the DEIS

imputes is false.

This missing information was identified in the final scope of issues as the Extent of Information Needed to Adequately Address Identified Impacts. The information presented is clearly inadequate to the job.

There are other additional written comments."

Supervisor Villella: "Would you like to-- thank you. Chris, you have-- "

Councilman Kent: "I don't know if any of these people are still here. Rick Wilhelm. Home in bed like any smart person would be. Dave Barezny. Robert Johnson-- Dr. Robert Johnson, and I hold in my hand the last card-- Dr. Ron Abrams-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Do one of these-- "

Councilman Kent: "And-- so we have no further speakers. At this time, Barbara, would you please read the Riverhead School District letter into the record, please."

Barbara Grattan: "January 7, 1999 to Mr. Richard Hanley, Director, Town of Riverhead, Planning Department, 200 Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York. Regarding the draft environmental impact statement/Traditional Links Golf Resort.

Dear Mr. Hanley: The Riverhead Central School District would like to make the following comments relative to the draft environmental impact statement for the Traditional Links golf resort submitted by Traditional Links LLC.

In short we have two issues that we have considered in reviewing this project: (1) the fiscal impact on the school district and the taxpayers of Riverhead. (2) the availability of space to house children.

As we understand it, there was an original proposal for two golf courses, a 500 room hotel, a clubhouse, maintenance facilities and 25 golf related home sites. There are also two alternatives to the original proposal. The first alternative is for 525 single or duplex houses with the potential maximum of 738 units. The second alternative is a mixed use of the property as an 18 hole golf course,

a clubhouse and low density residential units.

I would like to make the following comments on the original proposal and two alternatives based on our two major concerns. The original proposal would have a favorable impact on the fiscal operation of the school district. There would be growth in assessment, increased tax revenues and, apparently, no additional children in the school system. Therefore, that proposal is obviously the more favored by the school district. The least favored is the alternative proposal of 525 single or duplex units with a maximum of 738.

Currently the tax levy in the school district is on the average of \$8,663 per child. On a home valued at \$160,000, we receive \$2,909 in tax levy. Assuming that these units would be in that price range, there would be a shortage of \$5,753 per unit which would have to be made up by all the taxpayers of the Riverhead Central School District and, therefore, increase the current school tax burden. As far as space, we are currently at maximum and are proposing a \$13,450,000 bond issue to provide additional space at our elementary schools and relieve overcrowding at our Middle School. This alternative proposal of 738 units has the potential to add close to 600 students to our district which is more than the entire enrollment of one elementary school within our facility. Therefore, this alternative in addition to placing a fiscal burden on the district will also strap our existing and planned housing for our students.

The second alternative of a golf course, a clubhouse and low density residential units would have the following impact: Assume the unit sold in the \$400,000 range as verbally indicated by Mr. Talmage. This would generate \$7,273 of tax revenue per unit. If each unit had one child, there would be a shortage of \$1,390 per unit which would be borne by the other taxpayers of the Riverhead Central School District. The fact that these would be low density residential units with an 18 hole golf course, it would probably be safe to say that, minimally, this alternative would have little or no impact on the school district. We assume the golf course would generate revenues to make up any shortage generated by each housing unit. Also, since there would be less residential units, the impact on our housing needs for our school district would be minimal.

In summary, the original project was the most favorable. The golf course and low density residential units seems to be the most favorable alternative. The proposal of 738 units is obviously the

least favorable from a fiscal standpoint coupled with the strain on our housing requirements for the children.

Very truly yours, Bruce Olsen."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Barbara. I think we want to take-- who else would like to speak on this tonight before-- come on, Bobby. Where were you hiding all night?"

Bobby Goodale: "Sorry about not filling out a card. I forgot about it. So I'll be brief. Just really one thing. Bobby Goodale, Riverhead. One thing. What passes for planning in this town-- a while ago, there was kind of a deal made in my memory, maybe it was 10 years ago or longer. About the time that the Farmland Preservation Program -- and the kind of general understanding around town at that time was that Sound Avenue was the kind of separation point. That the idea was is that as much as possible the community would try to save as much of the farmland through the Farmland Preservation Program and other ways but to make up for that because once that's done the tax revenue from those areas is substantially less, was that development would move north of Sound Avenue. As we look toward that part of our community being as close as we could get to trying to get some of the second house stuff that forms the basis of the economic foundation of Southampton and East Hampton and to some extent Southold.

This was the idea and I think it still is a very good idea as a general planning thing. As it's been said before, in fact, a former councilman, Mr. Prusinowski, loved to carry around a map. I'm sure you've all seen it, which lays out all the high percentage of property in the Town of Riverhead that is either off the tax rolls or is lessened through such things as the Farmland Preservation Program and other things. It's extraordinarily-- extraordinarily high percentage of our land is already not taxed, at least not taxed at its full extent."

Supervisor Villella: "Forty-eight percent of the whole Riverhead School District is non-taxed."

Bobby Goodale: "This puts a tremendous burden on the remainder of the property. The more that we look toward preserving what perhaps should be in the best of all possible worlds preserved, I cannot believe there's not a way in which this could be done to salvage the most essential of the environmental concerns that have been presented here but I would hope that there would be. But the driving idea is

that we've got to find a way in which we can bring the kind of economic development that does not hurt our school system and our other services in a way that will in the long term lessen the tax burden upon the remaining landowners, property owners, homeowners in the balance of the town.

And if this idea, which I think has still value, south of Sound Avenue, the farmland being preserved one way or another and pushing development of a certain type of which this fits into that, I believe that that remains in my mind an excellent general planning idea that has merit. And I would hope that the ways in which this project could be made to fit the idea which by the way means that I'm not all that happy about that 111 below Sound Avenue there because I think that goes against that idea which I know is not (inaudible). Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Bobby. Anyone else like to speak? Sal."

Sal Mastropolo: "Sal Mastropolo, Calverton. Just one quick question. Why can't we have our cake and eat it? Why can't we swap them enough acreage out of the Grumman property to do their project and preserve this piece of land for the environment?"

Supervisor Villella: "Anyone else like to speak? Okay. We would-- discussion-- want to have a little discussion first because we want to let you know what's going on. As of right now, we were talking about 20 days-- a written comment period will still be open. That's February 2nd and it's written comment period. So that will be 20 days from now. I think we needed some more information and answers to be answered-- questions and everything, so is there anything else you'd like to add to that?"

Councilman Kent: "We're not taking any more public comments, only just written comments."

Supervisor Villella: "Written comments."

Councilman Kent: "By 5:00 p.m."

Supervisor Villella: "5:00 p.m., February 2nd. And it's written comment only. Good enough. Twenty-one days. Town Board meeting that day. Is there any other thing you'd like to say before we close the meeting? Have anything? I want to thank both-- everybody for coming here. It was handled in a very orderly manner."

I want to thank everybody. I just-- I know it's a heated situation, there's a lot of things in front of us. We have to-- there's a lot of information and we have to get a lot of answers to the questions that are in front of us. So we're going ahead with the process and February 2nd, the comment period will be over.

Thank you very much."

Meeting adjourned: 10:35 p.m.

Barbara Dutton
Town Clerk