



DINA M. De GIORGIO
COUNCILWOMAN
TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

July 23, 2013

Dear Community Leaders:

As most of you are aware, the LIRR has proposed a track expansion in Port Washington. They have provided two alternatives, neither of which I believe is acceptable for our community.

While we have few legal remedies, my hope is that we can organize to develop alternatives that we can present to the Town and to the railroad that they will consider in the spirit of serving our community. I'm inviting you to participate.

The immediate concern is the loss of commuter parking spaces, both on a long-term basis and during the construction period. Both plans will result in re-configuring the parking lots, resulting in fewer and narrower spaces. Both plans will impede pedestrian traffic, and pick-up and drop-off at the station.

But the negative impact of the track expansion goes far beyond this. In either scenario, there will be substantial disruptions on and around Main Street during construction, creating longer tie-ups and the potential for loss of business for Main Street retailers.

As of this date, neither the LIRR nor the Town has provided any new information regarding this project to me.

As a community, we need to discuss these issues and formulate our own interim solutions. A good plan, supported by smart people with influence may enable us to have productive discussions with the railroad. However, in the unlikely event that the LIRR elects not to proceed with either plan, we will have laid the groundwork for a long-term plan for keeping Port Washington the best commuter town on Long Island.

I am creating a parking committee made up of representatives from each of your groups and a few other residents of the Town. We will create long term solutions to the parking and traffic issues in Port Washington; with particular focus on Main Street and the railroad station.

The first meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2013 at 7:30pm in the Hagedorn room of the library with monthly meetings thereafter. I will leave the selection of a representative to your discretion. It will be most beneficial to have some members with an engineering or architectural background, so please keep that in mind as you identify potential candidates.

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Please provide the name and contact information for the potential members by August 15th and call me with questions or for more information at 869-7706 or 767-1231.

Best regards,

Dina De Giorgio