

The Wantagh Preservation
Society
3334 Bunker Ave.
Wantagh, New York

The Honorable Edward Speno
1565 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Dear Senator Speno:

To make a prarie it takes a clover
and one bee
And reverie.
The reverie alone will do
If bees are few.

Unfortunately sir, even Miss Dickenson we fear, would find it difficult to maintain a reverie in the midst of the sound and fury that pervades our 20th century.

It is on this note that we wish to make contact with you, in the hope that a man of action as yourself, is motivated by a heart and mind dedicated to the poetic spirit.

PLEASE, SENATOR SPENO, HELP US SAVE THE WANTAGH RAILROAD STATION FROM THE BULLDOZER'S LETHAL BLOWS. The station and its tiny park and beautiful trees are soon to be replaced with concrete when the tracks are elevated. Help us save the station and the trees so that they can be moved and restored to serve the community in another fashion.

Wantagh is fast becoming a community "bereft" of progress. One gas staion follows one bar, follows one liquor store, follows one "discoteque", follows one hamburger joint, neon sign after neon sign.....and the maples and the beeches and the oaks fall where they reigned for a hundred years.

This was at one time one of the most beautiful and oldest towns in Nassau County. We feel certain it is unnecessary to remind you of the historical significance of this community. However, there is a little here save an iron marker on Wantagh Ave. to poignantly proclaim that Wantagh was first settled in 1644.

As a group, we are not purveyors of antiquities per se, but do recognize that there is little left to salvage of our past upon which to build any genuine grass roots community feeling.

We are Quite convinced that the railroad station is indeed the place to focus upon to launch a multi-pronged community planning enterprise.

A spokesman for the New York State Department of Public Works has informed us that the state does cooperate with a community in its endeavors to enhance itself of a museum.

Mr. Solarsky, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Long Island Railroad has informed us we have only until April first to save the station for Wantagh as Stoneybrook is awaiting our decision to further their own negotiations for the station.

We envisage the possibility of the railroad station being moved to Merrick Road on the site of the Old Grist Mill where another lone marker stands with vigilance against the onslaught of old shoes, candy wrappers, beer cans, and shopping carts (yes, Mill Pond has become a magnificent dumping ground) -- and therein be installed as a museum depicting, possibly, the history of the Long Island Railroad itself. A miniature railroad could be installed that would, we feel certain, delight the young of all ages. In addition, our local artists, artisans rugmakers, jewelry designers, photographers, etc., could well supply anshowcase with an abundance of talent that best expresses what can develop through the American Way of Life.

The maintenance of the building and indeed, its restoration, could be aided by our local youngsters to help foster a feeling of committment to the project and thereby possibly lesson an already uneasy problem of vandalism.

We have , for months now, been in the process of contacting local organizations and groups to arouse their interest and support. Local artists, architects, educators, clergy, garden-club members, and Girl Scouts have all shown a keen interest.

In this letter we have only touched on some of the ideas that have occurred to us. We feel certain that many more will occur to you. So to someone who has consistently maintained an honest concern for the complexion and welfare of our community, we appeal to you, Senator Speno, to reaffirm our faith by activily furthering our cause and

PLEASE HELP SAVE THE WANTAGH RAILROAD STATION!

Thanking you for any consideration you may give this letter,

We remain,respectively,
your constituents,

Margaret Aiken
Elaine Lichtenstein

Acting Coordinators for the presently
forming Wantagh Preservation Society

Also: Midge Leonard, Harold Johnston, Donald Brown A.I.A. , and
Albert Monheit