



Sands Point Report

MARCH 2017

SPECIAL REPORT... FROM VILLAGE'S EMERGENCY MANAGER

Mayor

Edward A. K. Adler

Trustees

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Deputy Mayor
Marc Silbert
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Dear Residents,

Recently, you may have received a letter from PSEG-LI regarding power poles and hardening of the power lines. Here is additional information on that matter as well as some additional items we would like to share.

Peter Forman

Trustee & Emergency Manager

1) Hardening of Power Lines

- As we all know, Sands Point has a history of power outages. Although that has improved somewhat over time, some areas of the Village are still very susceptible. Like many other areas, we were hit badly during Storm Sandy and subsequent weather events.
- Over the years, Mayor Adler, Trustee Silbert, the Village staff, and I have met with PSEG-LI many times to discuss and look for ways to mitigate the number and severity of outages.
- One of the solutions that has been under consideration has been “modern meters” that would allow PSEG-LI to wirelessly determine which homes have lost power. While that is still in consideration, there is no time frame for implementation at this time. And it would only help mitigate.
- Meanwhile, PSEG-LI has secured a FEMA grant to fortify power lines in various communities on Long Island. Overall it this project should have a major positive impact on outage mitigation. They will now be embarking on the process of “hardening” some of our circuits. “Hardening” means improving the resistance to failure from trees and storms.
- The first beneficiaries of this hardening will be the streets of Cow Neck Rd, Barkers Point Rd, and Sands Point Rd. These streets have historically been among the most vulnerable to outages. These streets, especially Barkers Point Rd, have many old-growth trees that are coming to the end of the natural lifespan. This leaves them tall and weakened. This project does NOT entail their removal.
- According to PSEG-LI, these streets will not be the last streets to be hardened--they are just the first grouping. It is not clear whether they will actually harden more streets in the Village and if so, when.
- What does the hardening entail? PSEG-LI will be replacing all of the wood electrical poles beginning on Cow Neck Rd (at Middle Neck Rd). Then running all the way down Cow Neck Rd to Shore Rd/Sands Point Rd (near Sousa school). Then running up Sands Point Rd until Middle Neck Rd. Additionally, virtually the full length of Barkers Point Rd, from Cow Neck Rd (until Hicks) will be upgraded as well. ***Please see the attached map.***

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- **According to PSEG-LI, the new poles will be:**

- ◊ About 2 to 3 feet taller--(not like PW Blvd, which are much, much taller).
 - ◊ They will be sunk about 1 foot deeper into the ground.
 - ◊ They will be about 2 to 3 inches wider in diameter--significantly strengthening them. (That is only 1 to 1.5" per side.)
 - ◊ They will have narrower and stronger top-rails--reducing damage from falling trees limbs.
 - ◊ They will have thicker wires to better resist failure.
 - ◊ New circuit-switches in additional locations will be installed. This will allow PSEG-LI to better isolate and identify damaged circuits.
 - ◊ The new poles will be installed within about 2' to 3' away from the existing poles.
 - ◊ PSEG-LI will coordinate with phone and cable providers to move their lines off the old poles as soon as possible so the old poles can then be removed. But, please note, the removal of the old poles is expected to take approximately five months. (We will have to be a bit patient!)
- From what we understand, these changes will be a material, long-term improvement.
 - Work will begin in April, 2017 with very minor, intermittent power interruptions expected. PSEG-LI says they will contact affected clients in advance

- **Here is some additional background info:**

- Sands Point residents are served by 4 PSEG-LI electric distribution circuits running back to two local substations. In addition to about 930 Sands Point residents, these circuits serve over 6,000 households and businesses in total.
- The total length of the overhead high voltage lines associated with these four circuits is more than 55 miles. The cost of burying, or "undergrounding" as they call it, the full length is estimated by PSEG-LI at about \$200mm--which does not include other utilities and the costs each household would incur to bury their own connections to the poles.
- Sands Point alone has about 27 miles of these "Primary" overhead lines, with a undergrounding cost of about \$100 million, per PSEG-LI. PSEG-LI is a private company which has a maintenance contract with LIPA to operate the system and there are no provisions for them to underwrite this. We see no viable path to fund this ourselves nor to get others to fund it for us.
- The poles will be overwhelmingly located along streets and not in rear yards.
- *Please note that all info provided to you in this briefing has been provided by and reviewed with PSEG-LI and we believe to be accurate.*

2) Cell Service Survey

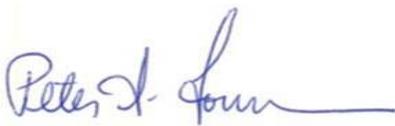
- In what we consider to be both a critical risk to safety and lifestyle nuisance, many roads in the village have little to no cell phone coverage.
- We are sure we have all experienced losing calls in "the usual place".
- Some residents have, in fact, reported a decline in coverage over the past few years.
- It varies, of course, from carrier to carrier and from street to street.
- We will be contracting shortly with a firm that specializes in "RF surveys"--that is, it surveys cell signals.
- The signal strength of the 4 major carriers will be determined (Verizon, ATT, Sprint, and T-Mobile).
- In addition to public streets within the village, we will be surveying private roads, the two golf courses, and the Preserve.
- We hope that the results of this survey will strengthen our hand and our discussions with the providers to improve the signal strength.
- We will keep you informed as the results become available.

3) NorthShoreAlert.org

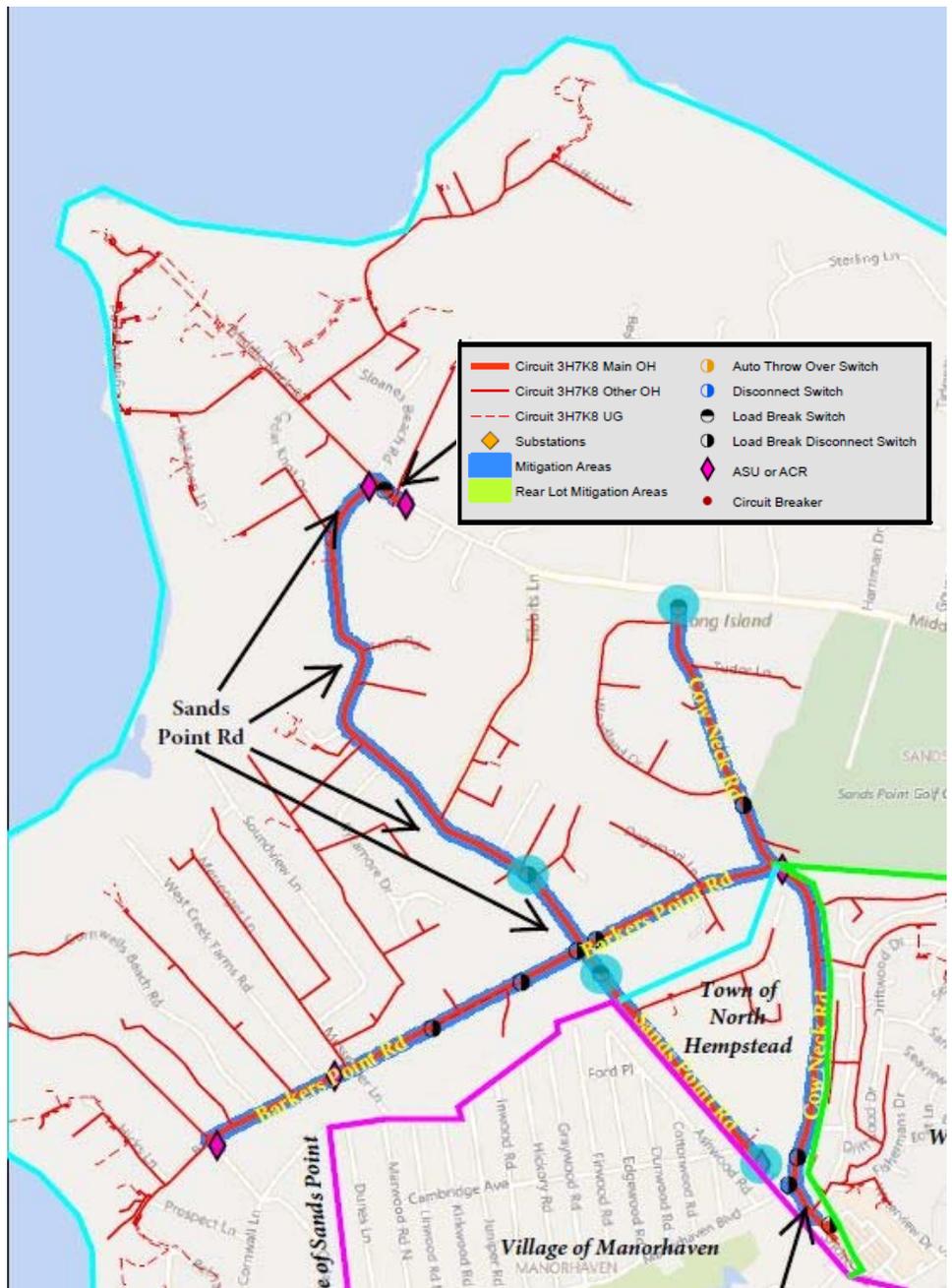
- Sands Point uses the powerful and effective mass-communication tool called NorthShoreAlert.org.
- In a wide-spread emergency, like Storm Sandy was, this tool increases the probability of reaching you with potentially life-saving information.
- In addition, it is used for conveying important civic matters outside of an emergency.
- But, if you have not subscribed (free) or your information is stale, you cannot be contacted.
- We try to send messages by email, rather than by phone but that requires us to have your email or text number registered.
- We do not share your info with anyone.
- And, you will note, we are very judicious with the use of the system. We are residents too and try not to send calls that we would not to receive either.
- You can register as many points of contact as you need to including: both spouses, children of appropriate age, caregivers, other relatives, etc.
- Please go to NorthShoreAlert.org today to register
- If you need assistance, you can email to alerts@NorthShoreAlert.org
- We suggest you do it immediately, while you are thinking about it!

4) If you have other topics you would like us to cover in future safety and emergency management newsletters, please feel free to contact Trustee Marc Silbert and me via my email address below.

That is all for now.



Peter Forman
Trustee & Emergency Manager
peter@forman.com



Only the thicker blue lines will be hardened at this time



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SANDSPOINT.ORG

SPECIAL REPORT from Village's Emergency Manager

26 Tibbits Lane
P.O. Box 188
Port Washington, NY 11050
Phone: 516-883-3044

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



NorthShoreAlert.org is a mass notification system designed to keep residents and businesses of the Port Washington, NY peninsula, north of Northern Blvd, informed of emergencies and certain community events.

By registering with NorthShoreAlert.org, time sensitive voice messages from the Village of Sands Point, Town of North Hempstead and the PW/Manhasset OEM may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, email accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices. Village Newsletters are also distributed by the NorthShoreAlert.org system before paper copies are printed and mailed.

The NorthShoreAlert service will be used to supplement current communication plans and augment public safety/first responder services.

So if you haven't done so already - **SIGN UP**— go to **NorthShoreAlert.org**