

HISTORY OF THE LEEDS POND PRESERVE

(The Goldman Estate)

- November 1965 - Board of Education held a public meeting on sites for a new school. One of the sites was the Goldman Estate. Mayor of Plandome Manor appeared in opposition. (Ref: Pages 53-64 of hearing transcript)
- December 1965 - Village formally notified Board of Education its opposition with reasons.
- January 1966 - Board of Education replied to village's letter convinced Board of Education to give consideration to other site.
- 1967 - Mr. Goldman died at age 87.
- May 1968 - Chase Bank (Goldman's Exec.) offered the property for \$1,750,000, with a possible subdivision plan for more than 40 homes with 4 on Manhasset Bay. Village contacted Chase to donate the property to the Town or County for a park or preserve. (Mr. Goldman, a bachelor, had offered to leave the estate to the Village.) The village declined his offer because it was too costly to maintain. Chase said the will required that the property be sold and the proceeds to go to the Herman Goldman fund.
- May 1968 - Village contacted the County to purchase it for a park or preserve. County reply; price too high and no interest.
- June 1968 - Board of Education again interested in Goldman site. Wanted to buy 12 acres. Village again opposed.
- September 1968 - Cluster housing development submitted to village. Village rejected it.
- September 1968 - Goldman property sold for \$1,050,000.
- October 14, 1968 - Board of Education voted to acquire 12 acres by condemnation. Mayor again opposed because he had again contacted the County after learning the lower price paid by the developer. The Mayor urged Robert Gamble, Deputy Commissioner of Recreation & Parks and John Burdis, Director of the Nassau County Planning Commission to look at the property.
- November 19, 1968 - Letter from Gamble stated they had looked at the property and were interested.
- 1968 & 1969 Many meetings with Gamble and other county personnel regarding the use of the Goldman property if county acquired it.
- Aug/Oct/Dec 1969 - Subdivision plans submitted by developer. Village delayed action hoping to give the county time to find the money.
- January 1970 - County advised the village that it was getting ready to acquire Goldman by condemnation, and asked the village to stipulate under what conditions the county would be permitted to place a county facility within an incorporated village.
- January 13, 1970 Village sent letter to Gamble with 15 stipulations on use of the property which included that the village have use of main floor free of charge for village meetings and functions. Gamble's reply dated 1/20/70 had no objection to this.

- February 17, 1970 - Because of slow action by the county and under pressure from the developer with threat of legal action against the village for its delay in approving his subdivision plans the village had to approve his preliminary submission for 45 homes on the Goldman property. The village was hoping that the county would acquire the property before approval of final plans and construction.
- Mid 1970 - The county and village signed an agreement on the use of the property acquired.
- July 20, 1970 - The county applied to the Supreme Court to acquire by condemnation.

**THE VILLAGE OF PLANDOME MANOR HAD WON ITS FIVE YEAR BATTLE TO
SAVE THE GOLDMAN PROPERTY FROM THE
DEVELOPERS!!!!**

- September 1971 - A village resident said that the county was considering leasing the property to a private school with an attendance of 300 youngsters. The village asked the county for an explanation. A reply by the director of the County Museum of Natural History, dated September 30, 1971, stated that it was considering among others, the North Shore Jr. Science Museum. That the 300 youngsters really meant 300 over the course of a year, in small groups meeting late in the day and on Saturdays.
- 1972 - The NSJSM, which later became SMLI, was welcomed by the village. Since then over the years the spirit of cooperation and respect for each other has worked to the mutual advantage of the museum and the village.

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