

Wake Up, Garden City

To the Editor,

The lead article in this newspaper last week reported that the Joint Conference Committee of the POAs had turned over to the Village Board of Trustees the matter of an opinion poll of residents on St. Paul's. In the article, Mayor Peter Bee told the Garden City News that the Board may consider hiring a professional pollster to conduct a community-wide poll. The absence of the JCC and a unified presence of the four property owners associations in the St. Paul's process makes it all the more important that residents come out and monitor their trustees actions even more closely.

The problem is a simple one. The people should be voting on one question and one question only – Do we approve of the plan submitted by AvalonBay Communities? Instead, two of the POAs are trying to confuse the issue with questions about demolition or mothballing, without providing anyone with enough information about these options to make a considered decision. And then there is Trustee Mauk, who recused himself from the Mayor's Committee because of the appearance of a conflict of interest. His employer, CB Richard Ellis, has invested millions in AvalonBay stock. Why is he AvalonBay's most ardent supporter and why does he argue that AvalonBay is the only choice except demolition? We already know that isn't true. It's not surprising that AvalonBay wants the demolition choice to be considered. In fact, they threatened to walk away if demolition was NOT on the ballot. Is this yet another scare tactic?

So, let's decide on AvalonBay once and for all and move on.

It remains disturbing, too, that the Village has not corrected problems with its website, and residents cannot access agendas for upcoming Board of Trustees meetings online. This problem has persisted over several months. This certainly doesn't encourage residents to participate in the process. Or, is that the point?

We urge all residents to pay close attention as this community moves into the final phase of possibly selecting a commercial developer for St. Paul's. This is our opportunity to say whether we like or dislike what the Mayor's Committee has come up with. We encourage all residents to attend Board of Trustees meetings before it's too late. The next meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, at 8 p.m. at Village Hall. Please be there.

The Executive Committee
Of the Committee to Save St. Paul's