

Press Release

Fences May Make Good Neighbors;

Bamboo Does Not

Florham Park, March 29, 2016: With the start of the warmer weather and the first stirring of the crocuses and daffodils desperately trying to poke their tired heads up and greet the sun it is only a matter of time before another quick growing, yet potentially much more obnoxious companion makes an appearance. Last September, in response to a number of complaints received, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Florham Park passed Ordinance #15-17 which regulates the planting, growing, maintaining and/or cultivating of bamboo within the Borough.

Bamboo is officially considered a “grass” however its’ rapid and often uncontrolled growth has become problematic in several neighborhoods across the Borough. There are primarily two types of bamboo; “Clumping” and “Running”. Running Bamboo can spread rapidly by sending out horizontal shoots that can cover an additional 3-5’ fee per year if not properly maintained. “In response to the increased number of complaints”, Borough Construction and Zoning Official, Stephen Jones said, “the Borough has taken the position that it is incumbent upon all property owners to maintain existing bamboo growth within their own property.” Additionally Jones said, “with few exceptions these new regulations prohibit the planting of any new bamboo and also requires all existing areas of bamboo to be maintained on the originating property.”

If a valid complaint is received regarding unmaintained bamboo growth, the owner of the property where the violation exists may be subject to daily penalties and fines for failure to comply with the conditions set forth in the Ordinance. Although bamboo may make a good property border, its maintenance is key to keeping a neighborhood peaceful and happy. If you have any questions or comments regarding this new regulation you can contact: Stephen D. Jones, CBO at: sjones@fpboro.net or by phone at: 973-410-5346.

Attached is a link to the new Bamboo Ordinance:

<http://www.ecode360.com/30501193?highlight=bamboo#30501193>