

November 15, 2021

Brian Cecola  
Village President  
**The Village of Barrington Hills**  
112 Algonquin Road  
Barrington Hills, IL 60010

Brian,

I deeply regret informing you that my wife, Trustee Debra A. Buettner, passed away Thursday morning at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She had been ill for a number of months, but asked for personal and professional reasons that the nature and extent of her illness be kept private.

Deb loved living in Barrington Hills. When we moved here over 30 years ago, it was somewhat a fulfillment of one of her dreams to live on a large parcel of property.

She also loved serving on and contributing to the Board of Trustees. For many years, people encouraged her to run for office since she'd volunteered on so many local boards and communities for various causes. Then, when someone approached her on running in 2019, she asked me what I thought. I knew then she was ready, and answering anything but in the affirmative was pointless.

When Deb informed me she would eventually have to step down from the BOT due to her health, I asked her if she'd considered who she thought would best encapsulate her ideals in serving the remainder of her term. Once again, I questioned why I asked, because she'd already thought it through.

In fact, she had considered the matter for some time, and had conversations with Pro-Tem Konicek on who she believed would serve with her commitment to maintaining the beauty of Barrington Hills, with a focus on habitat, open and honest governance, and conflict resolution, and how to best address it given she was hospitalized. Brian, Deb planned to call you with the Pro-Tem with her verbal resignation and the name of her preferred successor, but she never had the opportunity.

I do know who Deb would have liked to succeed her as well as alternates, but I will ask Pro-Tem Konicek to elaborate on Deb's wishes. One thing I share is they were all female.

If you would like to discuss this further, Brian, I'll be available next week after Deb's laid to rest.

Sincerely,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature area.

James C. Hammond  
  
Barrington Hills, IL

Cc: Village of Barrington Hills Board of Trustees