

H. W. DE FOREST
165 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

JUNE 11, 1935.

Dear Oliver:-

I have your letter of the 6th and in a small community like our Village, consisting of comparatively intimate friends, I do not think any action should be taken about the change of name except by the practically unanimous consent of the residents and I find that my views in this particular are shared by the Mayor and the Trustees. We have therefore decided at the coming meeting to vote against the change from Laurelton to Cold Spring Cove and with this out of the way, the matter can be discussed later.

Miss Wright is quite correct in her statement in regard to the name "Laurelton". Oliver H. Jones' house stood exactly where the Tiffany house stands at the present time and although comparatively small and unpretentious he sought to dignify it by the name of "Laurelton Hall". When he died, the property passed to his son, Oliver L. Jones and for several years was used as a small boarding-house during the summer months. Later Jones decided to tear down the house and substitute a hotel and the name was perpetuated by calling this "Laurelton Hall". For a few years the hotel was operated as a reasonably high-class resort. Later it was leased to the Iron Steamboat Company and was converted into the most objectionable kind of a picnic ground, with dance pavilion, bar-room, brass band and accomodation overnight or for a

longer period. Operated as it was it became an intolerable nuisance and continued to be until the property was bought by Mr. Tiffany who built his house upon the old site and perpetuated the name of Laurelton. The appearance of Laurelton on the map which you refer to, was only intended to indicate the location of the hotel and there was nothing in the way of a settlement or village. Our village was named Laurelton because of Mr. Tiffany's insistence that it should be. I was opposed to it at the time as were the other Village Trustees and I have been opposed to it ever since. I do not like the name as a name and I think the fact that there is another and a larger village of Laurelton distant only about twenty miles, is an objection and all the more so because the other Laurelton is a suburban development of a distinctly unattractive type.

In discussing the question of the change of name, two other names were suggested, - Laurel Hollow and Cold Spring Cove. I suggested the former when the matter was first brought up and I agreed to the latter because I was under the impression that most of our residents preferred it. The principal argument in its favor is that it would identify our village with Cold Spring Harbor, which I think the most attractive body of water on the north shore of the Island. Other things being equal, I think too that where a name can be distinctly localized, it is an advantage.

Referring to Laurel Hollow, I think it a pretty name and it certainly is descriptive of the valley through which the Laurel Hollow Road runs. I do not think the adoption of the name could possibly be construed as an admission on our part that we all live in a hollow and this is the only objection I have heard against it. As a matter of fact the valley was Laurel Hollow before the road was laid out and the road was laid out prior to 1850 in order to give access to tide water on the west side of Cold Spring Harbor. It is interesting to note that it still continues to be the only road which does.

I am leaving for the Ristigouche the end of this week and perhaps when I come back we can have a general meeting of our friends to discuss the matter.

As you see I am strongly opposed to Laurelton but ready to agree upon either Laurel Hollow or Cold Spring Cove or any other name which may be suggested as more appropriate.

Faithfully yours,

(sgd.) H. W. de Forest

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