

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



KATE BROWNING
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COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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BEAVERDAM CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVED

Browning Helps Post Morrow Foundation's Plan Become Reality

Hauppauge, NY — Brookhaven Hamlet is one of the last remaining towns in central Suffolk County where beautiful landscapes have not been paved over for big box stores and high density housing developments. Flowing directly through the center of Brookhaven hamlet, residents enjoy the recreational and environmental benefits of a healthy Beaver Dam Creek. Today, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) praised the support of her colleagues in passing seven resolutions to acquire and preserve over 57 acres of land within the vital Beaverdam Creek watershed.

"I appreciate that my colleagues in the legislature understand the importance of preserving this important watershed," stated Browning. "Protecting our groundwater and surface waters is needed to ensure that future generations can live a healthy life while still enjoying the scenic beauty of Brookhaven Hamlet."

In an ongoing effort to maintain and protect the quality of surface and/or groundwater in Browning's third legislative district, the legislator has been successful in approving almost 100 acres for possible preservation in Brookhaven Hamlet alone. The passage of introductory resolutions 1808-1814 solidified the preservation of 57 acres between Sunrise Highway and Montauk Highway. These important wetlands will be forever open space.

Additionally, in response to a comprehensive plan envisioned by the Post Morrow Foundation, a non-profit organization that formed to address environment concerns in the area of Brookhaven, Browning sponsored two resolutions in 2008 and 2010 to preserve a 9 acre parcel and the adjacent 27 acre parcel in the direct vicinity of the now approved 57 acres. Together these acquisitions will protect the Beaverdam Creek watershed, but will also provide a wonderful public benefit to the residents in the area by creating over 35 acres of nature trails.

"The Brookhaven hamlet community has been advocating for Beaver Dam Creek watershed protection for nearly 20 years, this being one of the main priorities in the 1995 Hamlet study conducted with the help of Long Island Regional Planner Dr. Lee Koppleman," stated Marty Van Lith, Post Morrow Foundation. "The preservation of these 57 acres will greatly enhance the protection of both Beaver Dam Creek and the South Shore Estuary into which it flows, and we thank Kate Browning for working to bring this to fruition."

The 9 acre parcel is currently owned by the Marist Brothers who have expressed interest in selling to the county. The Post Morrow Foundation is partnering with the county and town to purchase the property and eventually create nature trails with public access. Contracts for the sale are currently being finalized and a resolution to acquire the parcel should be introduced in the fall.

The Post Morrow Foundation has also been interested in a 27 acre property that is directly adjacent to the Marist parcel. The owner's of the 27 acres have also expressed an interest in selling to the county, and Legislator Browning recently gained the approval for planning steps to start that process as well. This piece of land has been identified as a key piece to preserving the last remaining open space in Brookhaven Hamlet.

"The Post Morrow Foundation approached me several years ago with a comprehensive plan to protect Beaverdam Creek and the scenic beauty within its watershed," stated Legislator Browning. "Today we are close to achieving our goals by preserving these 57 acres and nearing the completion of additional acquisitions that will provide public access to over 35 acres."

The ongoing preservation within Brookhaven Hamlet is the ideal example of progress that private and public partnerships can have in our communities. These preservation efforts must continue so that Suffolk County's last remaining open space can be enjoyed forever and our waterways can remain pristine.

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