

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING
County Legislator, 3rd District
Health and Human Services, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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BEAVER DAM CREEK PARTNERSHIP APPROVED

*Suffolk County, Brookhaven Town, & Post Morrow Foundation
Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Parcel*



(Pictured right to left: Ron Kinsella, Jen Puleston Clement, Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley), Patricia Trainor, Martin Van Lith, Tom Williams, Councilwoman Connie Kepert (D-Middle Island), Bruce Wallace, and Ken Budny)

Brookhaven, NY - Beaver Dam Creek is a vital natural resource located on the south shore of Brookhaven Town in Brookhaven Hamlet. The Post Morrow Foundation has been aggressively pursuing the protection of this important creek and has partnered with Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town to purchase 9.6 acres owned by the Marist Brothers of Schools, Inc.

Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley), Councilwoman Kepert (D-Middle Island) and members of the Post Morrow Foundation gathered today at the site of the acquisition to announce the approval of the partnership, which was passed at the Suffolk County Legislature's meeting on Tuesday December 7, 2010.

Under the agreement the Post Morrow Foundation will acquire 2 acres with the Town of Brookhaven. The private organization will be required to manage and maintain the property going forward, and has plans to demolish a structure on the site. Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town will take ownership of 7.6 acres and will begin the process of creating public access to the site for passive park use.

“The Post Morrow Foundation has worked tirelessly to preserve this important watershed,” stated Legislator Browning. “The organization approached me two years ago about executing a public-private partnership and I knew it was a win-win proposal. I am thrilled we were able to get the deal done so that we can preserve this important watershed for future generations.”

“The Post-Morrow foundation is very pleased that Suffolk County has been able to purchase the Marist Brothers property here in Brookhaven Hamlet,” stated Thomas Williams of the Post Morrow Foundation. “For many years we have felt this property was an important piece to be protected. It is part of the Beaver Dam Creek watershed and acts as a gateway to the Hamlet. Protection of the Marist Brothers property serves as further insurance that the Creek and important open space in this environmentally sensitive area will be forever preserved. We thank the County for partnering with the Town and the Foundation to make this important acquisition of land a reality.”

7.6 acres will be acquired by Suffolk County, which is paying 70 percent of the \$653,780 purchase price while Brookhaven Town is covering the remaining 30 percent. Brookhaven Town is also paying 62 percent on the 2 acre purchase while Post Morrow is paying the remaining 38 percent for a total of \$262,050. Together the 9.6 acres will be purchased for \$915,810.

“When the members of the community and the Post Morrow Foundation came to me with their plans for the parcel, the benefits for the community and environment were clear,” stated Councilwoman Kepert. “When I learned the purchase of the property would be a collaborative effort between my office and Legislator Browning's office, I had no doubt that this was an excellent use of the Town's preservation funds.”

“The Foundation applauds the assistance of the county and town with the preservation of this site from future development as it continues to protect the rural character of Brookhaven Hamlet,” said Bruce Wallace of the Post Morrow Foundation. “Directly north of South Country Road and in close proximity to the Denise Puleston preserve and Deer Run Farm to the south, both of which were also county assisted preservation projects, this acquisition in which the land is protected solidifies the rural country-like character of the hamlet.”

Legislator Browning envisions the public enjoying the beautiful scenery for years to come and will begin discussing the creation of a nature trail system on the property. The county is also pursuing the purchase of 27 acres adjacent to the parcel that could also be included for this purpose. A planning steps resolution was approved for that parcel earlier this year.

“The environmental significance of this week's joint acquisition of the 9-acre Marist Brothers property, by Suffolk County, Brookhaven Town and the Post Morrow Foundation is well understood,” stated Martin Van Lithe, Brookhaven Village Assoc. Historian. “But few may be aware that this land is also significant in terms of historical preservation. Nearly 100 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1678, the first English settler in this area between Bellport and Brookhaven, Samuel Dayton, built his house on this very piece of land. Then, as now, it was a choice piece of land. Congratulations and thank you for this wonderful Christmas present.”

“This has been a rewarding process and can be used as a perfect example of how government and the private sector can work together to improve our communities,” concluded Legislator Browning. “I am looking forward to continuing this joint venture and will be sitting down with various county departments in the near future to discuss the creation of nature trails on this beautiful property.”