Town Board Approves Resolution for Cornell Cooperative Extension to Inventory Stormwater Structures in Carmans River Watershed
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Farmingville, NY - At the May 10 Town Board meeting, a resolution was unanimously approved for the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County to inventory stormwater structures in Carmans River Watershed. As part of the Town's mandated New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) permit, the Town of Brookhaven must map all of its stormwater structures by May of 2015.

The mapping project was a recommendation by the Carmans River Study Group and is contained in the draft Carmans River Watershed Protection and Management Plan, which was presented to Supervisor Lesko in February. It includes collecting attribute data on each and every stormwater-related structure using electronic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field equipment. Information such as precise location, depth, diameter, material, structure cover, and direction of piping, if present, is recorded. Structures include catch basins, recharge basins and outfall pipes, which are direct discharge points to surface water. The end result is a mapping tool that will be used by the Town to access and plan for future stormwater-related improvements.

"This is another step to our ultimate goal which is to protect and preserve the water quality of the Carmans River. We are taking proactive steps to protect the river while the Town is conducting its environmental review of the Carmans River Watershed Protection Plan. Some of the structures that will be mapped were installed over 50 years ago, so it's important that we identify and examine each one carefully to make sure that they are still in proper working condition," said Supervisor Lesko.

Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, "The control and mitigation of non-point source pollution in the form of stormwater runoff will both improve and maintain the high quality of the Carmans River. Taking an inventory of the current structures is the first step and I applaud the actions of the Cornell Cooperative extension of Suffolk County and their help in this effort."

On February 10, 2011 Supervisor Mark Lesko received the draft Carmans River Watershed Protection and Management Plan, the culmination of over three months of work by the Carmans River Study Group. The Carmans River Study Group was established by Supervisor Lesko in October 2010 so the Town would have a clear plan of action to protect the Carmans River that was agreed-upon by government, non-government organizations and environmentalists, and builders. The Protection Plan is arguably the most significant and productive partnership between government, environmentalists, and builders since the Pine Barrens Act of 1993. The Protection Plan includes sweeping recommendations to protect the river and preserve land and introduces a new model of land preservation and management by redirecting development away from virgin land. The report was unanimously approved by the Carmans River Study Group at their last meeting on February 9. The Plan is currently being revised based on public comment and further analysis. Upon completion, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. The Town Board will have a joint public hearing on both documents and make revisions as needed.

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