Town Board Sets Public Hearing for Kayak and Environmental Education Center on the Carmans River
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Pictured above is the building currently located on Town-owned property on the banks of the Carmans River
Above is a conceptual rendering of the building after improvements if the license agreement is approved

Farmingville, NY - At the May 24, 2011 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Mark Lesko and the Town Council set a public hearing to consider the operation of a Kayak and Environmental Education Center on Town-owned property on the Carmans River. The public hearing is set for June 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

"This is a beautiful piece of property directly on the Carmans River, but unfortunately is currently not enjoyed by the public and needs updating," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "I look forward to hearing about the exciting plans for the kayak and environmental education center at this location. Hopefully residents will soon be able to kayak from this scenic access point up and down the Carmans River and at the same time learn about the environmental significance of the natural resource."

"As a public/private partnership this Kayak and Environmental Education Center is a good deal for the taxpayers of the Town of Brookhaven. A well qualified, enthusiastic vendor will run the facility in a way that will serve the community at no cost to the town. I’m also pleased that the structure will be used as a location for folks to learn about and have access to the Carmans River, which is one of the Town's greatest resources. On a personal note this is the location I, along with my family, have used for years to go canoeing along the river and I look forward to having that access again," said Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

At the public hearing, the Town will consider a license agreement with Brad DeSantis to operate the Kayak Business. Mr. DeSantis was selected as part of an RFP process. He started working at Carmans River Canoe Inc. and East Coast Surf Shop when he was 13 and eventually became a part-owner. While working at Carmans River Canoe, Mr. DeSantis catered to groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts and various school districts, and forged partnerships with the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Carmans River Canoe Inc. operated at the same location on the Carmans River in the 1980's and 1990's and eventually was sold to Glacier Bay. Glacier Bay went out of business prior to the Town's purchase of the property in 2008.

If this license agreement is approved, the Town of Brookhaven will benefit from $70,000 in extensive capital improvements on the property to restore the dock, building, and grounds and the Town will receive $26,000 over five years.