Farmingville, NY - On April 12, 2010, the American Planning Association (APA) presented Councilwoman Connie Kepert the 2010 National Planning Leadership Award for Planning Advocate. The award recognizes an individual, an appointed official, or an elected official who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. Councilwoman Kepert, a steadfast supporter of planning, is a firm believer in the benefits that planning can bring to all communities. She has supported and worked towards making high-quality planning a community and town priority, previously as a civic organization officer and currently as an elected official. The APA cited Councilwoman Kepert's efforts in the redevelopment of Middle Country Road as the principal factor in her receiving this recognition.

"It's a great honor to receive this award and to be recognized by one of this country's most prominent planning organizations for the time and effort, and sweat and tears, that have been invested in creating a better place to live for the residents of Brookhaven," said Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Kepert was instrumental in the creation and passage of the Middle Country Road Land Use Plan that provided for revitalization of the Coram, Middle Island, and Ridge areas of the 4th Council District, through the use of concentrated commercial development and transition zoning. In addition, she convinced the New York State Department of Transportation not to widen the main thoroughfare through the district, but instead transform it into a pedestrian-friendly street according to the plan. Councilwoman Kepert's work on the Middle Country Road Land Use plan dates back to her days as a civic leader in Middle Island. The organization also recognized the Councilwoman's efforts to secure funding for bike paths, her work on Brookhaven's 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan, and her "community-oriented planning efforts" in Bellport, Farmingville and Gordon Heights.

"Connie is a tireless supporter of planning and a firm believer in the benefits it can bring to all communities, the success of her efforts will have benefits for decades to come" stated Supervisor Mark Lesko.

The event, which took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, included workshops and seminars on current and innovative technologies related to planning and development.