Farmingville, NY - On June 7, Councilwoman Connie Kepert joined the Yaphank Historical Society to celebrate the recent designation of the Swezey-Avey House in Yaphank as a historic landmark by the Brookhaven Town Board. The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Historic District Advisory Committee to designate the house as an historic landmark at a public hearing held on March 26, 2015. The designation recognizes that the building represents a significant and distinct contribution to the community within which it resides and ensures that the house is protected from demolition, neglect, or any other compromising force.

The Swezey-Avey House was built circa 1843 on the scenic Carmans River in Yaphank as the homestead of Daniel Downs Swezey, owner and operator of the Swezey Saw Mill. Upon his death in 1880, his brother, Van Rensselaer Swezey continued to live at the original homestead. Gilbert H. Swezey, Van Rensselaer’s son, grew up in the Yaphank house and became a physician. His daughter, Sarah Swezey, also chose a career in medicine. In 1911, Sarah Swezey traveled to India on missionary work where she met and eventually married Mr. H.T. Avey. When she returned home, Dr. Avey ran her practice out of the residence. It was during this time that the house became known as the Swezey-Avey House. Shortly after the death of Dr. Avey in 1963, the Town of Brookhaven purchased the Swezey-Avey House. A license agreement with the Yaphank Historical Society for the use and restoration of the building was authorized and executed by the Brookhaven Town Board on April 23, 2013.

"It was my great pleasure to join the Yaphank Historical Society in celebrating this significant designation of the Swezey-Avey House as an historic landmark by the Town Board," said Councilwoman Connie Kepert. "The Swezey-Avey House contributes to the rich and vibrant historic community of Yaphank and, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Historical Society, will provide an historical and educational resource for the entire community."
The celebration also featured a special art exhibit and sale of "Long Island Scenes" featuring works by plein air artists, Jeanne Salucci and Chris Taylor. Both local artists paint outdoors (en plein air) to capture different scenic and historic locations throughout Long Island.