April 23, 2012

Farmingville, NY - Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld was on hand to honor Eagle Scout candidate Richard Liao, a resident of East Setauket, who has successfully completed a kiosk at the entrance of Laurel Ridge-Setauket Woods Nature Preserve. The kiosk contains a map of the trails and a brochure with information about the preserve, the plants and animals found in the preserve, and the benefits to the underlying aquifers which are derived from having this preserve in place. This Eagle Scout project was completed by Richard Liao and his troop under the direction of his Scout Master David Barnes, Town Division of Land Management Consultant John Turner and Town Land Management Specialist John Lessler.

Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld said "Richard's kiosk will provide hikers on the trail a view of the entire nature preserve and marked trails. Attaining the rank of Eagle Scout takes leadership, hard work, and dedication to the community, and I congratulate him for his achievement."

The Division of Land Management is in discussion with David Barnes, Richards Troop Leader about an agreement with the troop for continued maintenance of these newly established trails.

The 252-acre Laurel Ridge-Setauket Woods Nature Preserve is located on Belle Meade Road in East Setauket. It includes 13 miles of trails which are maintained by C.L.I.M.B. (Concerned Long Island Mountain Bikers). C.L.I.M.B. maintains about 150 miles of trails across Long Island that is owned by various municipalities or non-profit entities. The preserve is home to a wide variety of migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, game birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and numerous invertebrates. The woodlands on the parcels are dominated by a pine-oak forest, comprised of a canopy of pitch pine and a variety of oak species as well as an extensive understory of Mountain Laurel.
To learn more about the Town of Brookhaven's nature preserves, including West Meadow Beach in Stony Brook, visit www.brookhaven.org.