Farmingville, NY - Earlier this week Councilwoman Connie Kepert sat down with County Executive Steve Bellone to discuss the multiple issues that affect the fourth council district in the Town of Brookhaven. "It's important for different levels of government to communicate on the issues that impact the quality of life of our mutual constituents. There are many issues that the fourth council district faces which are under the jurisdiction of both the town and county government so it's important for us, as elected officials, to work on solving these problems together," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Kepert talked about the Bellport Transit Oriented Development (TOD), a project she has been working on for some time and the critical need for a sewage treatment plant (STP) to ensure the success of the project as well as all smart growth projects. "In order to transform this location into a vibrant place for people to live, work and play we need the infrastructure of a sewage treatment plant," stated Councilwoman Kepert. The Councilwoman talked about the roadblocks that projects run into in relation to building sewage treatment plants and asked the County Executive to have the proper county departments explore new technologies that are available and to look at the current regulations that discourage smart growth projects while still protecting the environment and public health.

The elected officials shared a mutual enthusiasm for creating a network of recreational paths that connect bicyclists, walkers and hikers to County and Town parks. They both realized the value in creating paths that provide opportunities for residents to ride their bicycles to trails without having to get in their cars and the positive impact that has on the environment and health. One particular project that was discussed was the Whiskey Road Bike Path that the Councilwoman is currently working on that will connect to the county's Paumanok Path, the Brookhaven State Park and New York State Department of Conservation trials.

An issue of great concern for the Yaphank community that was raised by the Councilwoman is the Trap and Skeet County Park located in Yaphank. The Councilwoman explained that the Town is in trial at the 6th District Court on
noise violations. If the town is successful, the cost of the noise violations may force the vendor to look at relocating the facility away from a residential community.

The final topic discussed was the 230 acres of county land that was recently sold to the Brookhaven Rail Terminal (BRT) in Yaphank. The Councilwoman requested the contract between the County and the BRT stipulate that the operation will be prohibited from becoming a waste transfer station and that a 300 foot buffer next to the Suffolk County Farm is required. She also expressed concern for the truck traffic that will be generated and asked that restrictions on the access to Yaphank Avenue be put in place. County Executive Steve Bellone concluded the meeting and assured that there would be follow up. "I'm hopeful that we will continue a productive dialogue with the County Executive on these pressing issues. If we work together and are aware of our positions on these issues we will better serve the residents," concluded Councilwoman Kepert.

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