Fiore-Rosenfeld's Ecologically Sensitive Commercial Landscaping Bill Passes at his Final Town Board Meeting
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One of three "green" codes the Councilman has been working on as Chair of the Town of Brookhaven Clean Energy Task Force with local Civic Leaders

Farmingville, NY - At the final board meeting of 2013, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld was successful at passing a Town of Brookhaven code amendment making new commercial construction more ecologically sensitive. These code changes encourage the use of "Green" designs in commercial building, providing a comprehensive, integrated approach to new construction and building renovation that prioritizes human health, environmental protection, energy performance, aesthetics, comfort, and work place performance.

"This ecologically sensitive 'Green' landscaping section of Brookhaven Town code will encourage energy conservation, planning for future solar, preservation of existing indigenous plants and trees, and reduction of wasteful practices. I have worked with many departments within the Town as well as community members on these changes for quite some time and appreciate their hard work and dedication," stated Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld.

These amendments encourage saving existing plants and trees and adding indigenous species outside of commercial buildings. This will reduce the amount of water wasted on expansive lawns while maintaining the beauty of traditional landscaping. Also included in the amended code is the orientation of new buildings for optimum solar energy installation opportunities so future tenants may reap the benefits of a clean, cost effective energy source.

Joan Nickeson, Terryville resident and Beautification Chairperson of the Port Jefferson Station-Terryville Civic, was "encouraged by the language in the proposed changes to 85-50 Land Development Standards, such as the water conservation methods, the use of drought tolerant plant species and the recognition of the value of mature trees. These [code changes] not only respect the landscape that currently exists, it promises a greener future for our children."

"As solar power becomes more cost competitive with conventional forms of energy, it is likely that this trend in solar rooftop installations will grow," said Executive Director of reLI (renewable energy Long Island), Gordian Raacke. "The amendment calling for maximizing rooftop effectiveness for solar power [in commercial settings] is an important step towards a brighter and more sustainable future for the Town of Brookhaven; one that encourages the growth of local, clean energy."

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor
One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258