Fiore-Rosenfeld's Long Work with Community on Port Jefferson Station-Terryville "Commons" - A Central Community Park - Becomes a Real Residents' Plan
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The proposed "central" park to be located at the northern end of Canal Road and the intersection of Routes 112 and 347 has come closer to reality now that residents of Port Jefferson Station-Terryville have met twice - once to provide input and the second time to review and adopt the plans for the layout of the park.

"The residents of Port Jefferson Station-Terryville have endured many decades of waiting to reinforce a 'sense of place' in their area and to create a 'central' community park," said Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld. "Thanks to a State grant and strong support from Assemblyman Englebright, we were able to hire Cameron Engineering as consultants for the project, and planning has finally begun."

"Dedicating surplus state land for park purposes at this community gateway has been a goal for many years," said Assemblyman Steve Englebright. "The actualization of this dream of a welcoming, permanent, green space dedicated to cultural and recreational activities will add value to every home in the community by making this wonderful place even more livable and desirable."

Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld opened the well-attended first public meeting held on May 27, ably facilitated by Cameron Engineering. More than 75 residents participated in this highly energetic meeting at Comsewogue High School!

The purpose of this meeting was to "scope" the proposed park by receiving input from the community residents and key stakeholders. Cameron gave a detailed presentation on the site analysis of the park property and surroundings with an emphasis on identifying and understanding park development opportunities and constraints. The second half of the meeting consisted of a highly interactive session. Participants broke into small groups and brainstormed goals and objectives as well as possible park improvements. Their feedback, presented to the collective audience, was insightful, creative, and consensus-building.

The design concept that resulted from the initial meeting was to develop a distinctive and sustainable community open space to serve as a year round, multi-purpose, recreational and cultural hub for the Port Jefferson Station-Terryville hamlet. Working from that premise, Cameron held a second meeting on June 17. The first portion of the meeting included a slide presentation on the "Programming Results" extracted from the first meeting, an overview of the design process for the planning of the park, and a detailed presentation of the three alternative concept plans that had been developed from the Community's input.

The second portion of that meeting was another highly interactive session with the meeting participants again separating into small groups and developing feedback ("likes and dislikes") for each of the three plans. As was done at the first meeting, each group's findings were presented to the entire audience. The comments and recommendations were cohesive and insightful. There was a strong consensus in identifying Concept Plan A as the preferred layout. The community also provided suggested alterations to that plan, which included shifting the proposed building location, incorporating a band shell (part of Plan B), an ornamental perimeter fence to address safety concerns, and consideration to shifting the existing railroad car parallel to Route 112 (as shown in Plan B).

"The residents and key stakeholders have exemplified how the visioning process can be effective and consensus building," explained Kevin McAndrew, a partner in Cameron Associates. "It is exciting to see the positive energy and anticipation building within the community associated with this important open space."

Lou Antonello, former President of the Port Jefferson Station-Terryville Civic Association and its current Treasurer, who actively participated in both meetings, expressed his gratitude. "We have worked a long time to get to where we are. I want to thank Assemblyman Steven Englebright, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Steve Lerner [Pathmark shopping center owner], Keith Archer [attorney for Lerner], and the NYS Department of Transportation for their many hours of hard work and negotiating. Special thanks to Cameron Engineering for listening to what the people of Terryville and Port Jefferson Station want and for producing a great concept plan for our park. Together we will create a park that will be enjoyed by many for many years to come."

The meeting concluded with an explanation that Concept Plan A with the requested adjustments will become the
Preferred Plan to be developed by Cameron Engineering. The final steps of the Master Planning effort will also include consideration to project implementation (i.e. - timing/phasing options, costs, and funding).

NOTE: Concept Plan A can be viewed on the Town's webpage, www.brookhaven.org. Click on "Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld," scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Concept Plan A."