Supervisor Lesko Announces Appointment of Dawn Hopkins to Suffolk County Parks Board of Trustees
posted on 11/23/2009 12:04:43 PM

FARMINGVILLE, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko today announced the appointment of Dawn Hopkins as Brookhaven Town's representative on the Suffolk County Parks Board of Trustees. According to Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer William Lindsay, Hopkins is the first woman to represent Brookhaven on this board in 40 years.

"Dawn Hopkins has demonstrated a significant commitment to cultural affairs and natural area conservation throughout her tenure with the Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization," said Supervisor Lesko. "In her role with the Lake Ronkonkoma Civic, she spearheaded the eligibility of Lake Ronkonkoma for the New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. She will be a strong advocate for Brookhaven as a trustee on the Suffolk County Parks Board."

"I was very impressed by Ms. Hopkins when she appeared before the legislature's parks committee. I look forward to working with her on the board of trustees," said Legislator Vivian Viloria-Fisher, the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, who nominated Ms. Hopkins for the position.

The Suffolk County Parks Board of Trustees consists of 13 members, with 10 members appointed by the County Legislature from each of the towns of Suffolk County upon recommendation of the Town Supervisor. The board makes recommendations upon basic policy, long-range plans for park and open space acquisition and facilities development, any proposed sale of parkland and approves annual capital projects plans. The board also approves all matters having to do with the regulation, use, fees and charges with respect to county parks and recreation facilities.

A resident of Lake Ronkonkoma, Ms. Hopkins was a Labor Relations Specialist for the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) from 1984-2007, assigned to the Higher Education Division. She represented more than 5,000 members of faculty and staff and was responsible for grievance arbitrations, labor and management mediations, and local negotiations. Ms. Hopkins also supervised training for the union's members and was responsible for the development of local leaders. Prior to her employment at NYSUT, Ms. Hopkins enjoyed a career in nursing, serving as an Assistant Director for Nursing in Staff Development, Infection Control Officer, and Suffolk County Perinatal Regional Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Hopkins is a charter member of the Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization, where she presently serves as vice-president of the organization. As a community civic leader, she has monitored zoning board actions affecting her community, and served on the civic scholarship and membership committees.

The appointment of Dawn Hopkins by the County Legislature fills a vacancy left by Gary Olsen, whose term expired on November 30, 2006.