December 10, 2009 Farmingville - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Connie Kepert wrapped up a successful visioning weekend with the Farmingville community. Over 200 residents participated in various workshops, walking tours and final presentation celebration. Facilitated by Sustainable LI and led by Dan Burden, a celebrated and nationally recognized community planner, the weekend was designed to develop, promote and evaluate sustainable community design.

The visioning largely focused on the area surrounding Horseblock Road, the main thoroughfare through Farmingville, and cited a number of issues that comes with the busy road. The speed of traffic, lack of parks and places for people to congregate for activities, and the need for local business were all cited as top priorities for the hamlet.

"Since my days as a civic leader I have advocated for good planning," stated Councilwoman Kepert. "The way we plan and grow our communities can either serve to separate us as people or serve to bring us together. High speed roadways and seas of asphalt separate us," continued Kepert. "This weekend the community of Farmingville came together and embraced ways to grow that will foster a sense of community, and encourage much-needed economic development," she continued.

"Public participation is vital when it comes to community planning," stated Supervisor Lesko. "An open, collaborative process that involves residents, community leaders, business owners and public agencies are necessary components for good planning in the Town of Brookhaven."

Louise Scarola and Mike Underhill, Directors of the Farmingville Residents, pronounced the weekend a success. "There were a lot of great ideas presented and most people want the same thing: safe, walkable neighborhoods and places children and adults can gather," Scarola stated. "I was pleased to see residents involved together in a positive manner about what they would like to see for the future of Farmingville," stated Underhill. Both agreed "this is the beginning of terrific things to come for the people of Farmingville."

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Sustainable LI, stated, "Sustainable Long Island congratulates the Farmingville Community on their successful planning process. It is affirming for a community to show such strength, commonality and unification in their desires for their shared future. We look forward to continuing our work with the Town of Brookhaven and the community in creating a brighter future for Farmingville."

Councilwoman Kepert concluded, "The goal of the visioning process is to build safer, stronger and more vibrant communities through citizen involvement. The Farmingville Visioning is a great start to reaching that goal."