

# Councilwoman Cartright and the Cumsewogue Historical Society Open Gentlemen's Driving Park

posted on 10/27/2016 2:44:00 PM

**Farmingville, NY** – After years of activism and research by the Cumsewogue Historical Society and financial support by way of open space funding, Brookhaven residents can enjoy the half mile oval track once known as the Gentlemen's Driving Park, a Victorian era race track that rounded out the Grand Circuit of harness racing tracks on the east coast. It was written up in newspapers near and far in its heyday and was a member of the National Trotting Association.

This family-friendly Opening Day event on October 15th, drew over a hundred residents who enjoyed a walking tour of the track by Jack Smith, President of the Cumsewogue Historical Society, Kathy Springer's open carriage pulled by miniature donkeys and Mary Doherty's double registered American Paint Gelding, a series of classic Currier and Ives prints supplied by the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame from Goshen, NY, and refreshments courtesy of the Nassau-Suffolk Horseman's Association and President Lisa Quinn.

Port Jefferson Station, formally known as Echo, was named so because of the bay gelding of the same name, a revered local trotter, owned by local Captain Nathaniel Dickerson. The track, later known as the Herman Floyd race track, is the last of its kind on Long Island.

"There is tremendous value in having this open space designated in our community," stated Councilwoman Cartright. "I am thrilled to have helped secure this park for the Port Jefferson Station community and the enjoyment of all Brookhaven Town residents," said Councilwoman Cartright. "This could not have happened without the hard work of my predecessor, Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld."

"I am happy to have played a part in securing this unique piece of Long Island's equestrian history. It will be preserved for future generations to enjoy as tranquil open space, a fitness track, and as a glimpse into Long Island's recreational heritage," stated former Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld. "I want to credit the Cumsewogue Historical Society, President Jack Smith's advocacy in particular, as well as Councilwoman Cartright's strong continued commitment to conservation and wholesome compatible usage of this public preserve."

For more information, email the Cumsewogue Historical Society at [cumsewoguehistory@yahoo.com](mailto:cumsewoguehistory@yahoo.com) or connect with them on Facebook.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595