

# Brookhaven Supervisor Romaine and Councilman Panico Continue to Turn the Tide of Overdevelopment with Demolition of Sandy-damaged Home at 20 Ocean View Drive, Mastic Beach

posted on 4/28/2016 3:33:00 PM



## ***Demolition Made Possible Through Partnership with Nature Conservancy***

**Farmingville, NY** – Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico were joined by Mastic Beach Mayor Maura Sperry, New York State officials, representatives from The Nature Conservancy and Habitat for Humanity and local civic associations at the demolition of a house located at 20 Ocean View Drive in Mastic Beach that had been significantly damaged by Super Storm Sandy. This was one of the last homes that the Town acquired through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy from the NY Rising Program. It was the 14th house demolished in the last several months as part of the Town's aggressive approach to preserve open space, remove blight, and ensure that houses are not rebuilt on fragile wetlands.

The Town partnered with The Nature Conservancy which provided financial support that was used towards the acquisition and subsequent demolition of the houses. The Town is currently in the process of obtaining deeds for two more houses, one located at 224 West Dogwood Road and the other at 39 Washington Drive in Mastic Beach, that are slated for demotion on the future.

The Town also worked closely with Habitat for Humanity in removing valuable household items before demolition that were donated by the Town to Habitat's ReStore in Ronkonkoma. Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "This house was in an area where overdevelopment has had a severe impact on the environment and contributed to the cause of flooding in the Mastic Beach community. It's another great example of how different levels of government work together to improve the quality of life in the community. Councilman Panico has been working hard to move this program along and I applaud his efforts to help bring it to fruition."

"Little by little, we are turning the tide on overdevelopment, excess traffic, excess nitrogen into our ground and surface waters," Councilman Panico noted just prior to the demolition. "We are helping to alleviate the financial

burden of additional school age children into our school district and working to step the oversupply of homes on the market.” “The Nature Conservancy is pleased to partner with US Natural Resources Conservation Service, New York State Governors Office of Storm Recovery, Suffolk County, the Town of Brookhaven and the Village of Mastic Beach to restore and protect the natural floodplain, tidal and freshwater wetlands on the Mastic-Shirley peninsula. This cutting edge conservation, restoration and storm mitigation project gives willing sellers a buyer for their land and homes, provides wildlife habitat, improves ground and surface water quality, gets people, property and emergency responders out of harm’s way, reduces the taxpayers cost to maintain people, property and infrastructure in the flood plain, and improves the quality of life and property values for area residents who live on higher ground, outside of the floodplain. We look forward to a continuing effort to expand this program in this area on in other areas of Long Island,” said Randy Parsons, Conservation Finance & Policy Advisor for the Nature Conservancy.

Mastic Beach Village Mayor Sperry hailed the state, town and the Nature Conservancy for working together to address storm damaged homes that have “negatively impacted the community” while “taking the necessary steps to promote storm resiliency.” Frank Fugarino, President of the Pattersquash Creek Civic Association said, “We in the community look forward to restoring the land and offer our support. We are extremely grateful for Councilman Panico's dedication to Mastic Beach Village residents and their Quality of Life.”

In addition to 20 Ocean View Drive, 21 Lincoln Drive, 97 Beaver Drive, 58 Diana Drive, 82 Jefferson Drive, 46 Shore Drive, 109 McKinley Drive, 22 Wavecrest Drive, 31 Park Drive, 47 Riveriera Drive, 11 Spar Drive, 43 Magnolia Drive, 215 Elm Road, West and 21 Shore Drive, were demolished as part of the program.

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

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