

Brookhaven Town Closes on 40 Acres of Important Farmland in Manorville

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Councilman Dan Panico, Supervisor Ed Romaine and officials from the Long Island Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension have announced that the Town officially closed on significant property along Wading River Road in Manorville, which preserves another 40 acres of land in the Town's Farm Belt. The Town will preserve the wooded portion of the property as open space and will be looking to enter into a lease agreement with a local farmer to continue working the farmed portion of the property. The Town's Farm Belt is comprised of nearly 500 acres of mostly active agriculture and is one of Manorville's most noteworthy and recognizable features. It is also some of the last active farms in Brookhaven Town.

Supervisor Romaine said, "Acquiring this farm and the surrounding woodland is critical to preserving open space in the Manorville community and preventing over development in the Town of Brookhaven. I commend Councilman Panico for the work that he did to make this happen."

"As other areas to our west have seen their farms become strip malls and residential subdivisions, we in Brookhaven Town have taken a proactive approach and have been successful in maintaining the rural character of our community," said Councilman Panico. "Unlike other open space purchases, this preservation didn't cost the taxpayers one dime - nearly \$4,000,000 worth of property, located at the southeast corner of Wading River Road and the Long Island Expressway Service Road, that will now be preserved for future generations."

Robert Carpenter, Administrative Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau said, "We are pleased that Brookhaven Town is supportive of agriculture. Efforts to preserve farmland in the farm belt of Manorville are imperative so farmers in the Town can continue to provide fresh locally grown products for our residents for the foreseeable future. We look forward to continuing to work with Councilman Panico and Supervisor Romine to strengthen the agricultural industry and preserve Brookhaven's rural character."

Vito Minei, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, also praised the project, noting that "the Town of Brookhaven has utilized an innovative method to preserve an important and significant piece of farmland. As Councilman Panico and Supervisor Romaine know well, for farming to remain a viable legacy industry in Suffolk, a fundamental requirement is to have sufficient property to farm. Furthermore, as a long-time resident of Brookhaven, I am personally proud that the Town is taking steps to remain an active partner in the efforts essential for farmland preservation."

Pictured left to right are Town Supervisor Ed Romaine; Town Land Management Specialist John Turner; Councilman Dan Panico; Robert Carpenter, Administrative Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau; Jessica Anson, Long Island

Farm Bureau Public Policy Director; and Vito Minei, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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