

Councilman Panico Authorizes an Agreement with The Ketcham Inn Foundation To Maintain Property For The People Of Brookhaven

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Farmingville, NY - On October 11, 2012, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico held a public hearing and unanimously passed with his colleagues to enter into a licensing agreement with the Ketcham Inn Foundation, Inc.(a 5019(c)3 not for profit) for an upkeep and beautification program to maintain the premises commonly known as "Smith Farm" in East Moriches.

"It is always great when a not-for-profit and/or concerned community organization steps up to help maintain historic buildings and properties like the Smith Farm in East Moriches," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Partnerships like this are the name of the game because municipal governments everywhere are increasingly feeling the economic crunch and have limited funding for a great number of programs that the residents have come to enjoy. This partnership will help and I thank all of the residents in the area as well as the Ketchum Inn Foundation for stepping up to make this happen."

"The Board of Directors of the Ketcham Inn Foundation, Inc. is very pleased to have secured a License Agreement with the Town of Brookhaven for the maintenance on the historic Smith Farm in East Moriches. This property falls into our most historic area further establishing our 'cultural hub' in the Moriches Bay Area" said Bertram E. Seides, President of the Ketcham Inn Foundation, Inc., "Property from 1 Bay Avenue East Moriches Smith Farm going west crossing Terrell River, Historic Havens Estate now Suffolk County Terrell River County Park a 260 acre preserve parkland, 90 Montauk Highway, Havens Ketcham Cultural Visitor Center a Suffolk County 5 acre parkland to 1 Bellevue Avenue, on the south side. Crossing north over CR80 the Ketcham Inn, historic house museum, and the John S. Havens Homestead, historic house museum, Kaler Pond Park, and Audubon Barn, Mill Pond and Dam all within walking distance of each other. These properties with planned improvements with municipal and community support will enhance the historic Montauk Highway through the Moriches Bay Area, enabling the development of Heritage Tourism to flourish, resulting in improved quality of life on many levels."

The Smith Duck Farm (1910-1995) was purchased by the Town of Brookhaven in 2006 for parkland and public use. Along with becoming the stewards of the "Smith Farm," the Foundation is looking to establish an educational campus for cultural and historic purposes. They will oversee and manage the nine acres to include all structures existing on the site, road frontage on Montauk Highway, Bay Avenue southern boundaries and along the Terrill River. The Smith Farm Education Campus is to be fashioned after the Smith Manor House in Longwood, the Sherwood Jane House in Setauket, the Hallockville Homestead in Jamesport and the Hawkins House in Yaphank, providing a classroom and activity center. The fields are to be developed with organic crops of all kinds; in conjunction with Long Island farmers, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Master Garner Program, to include but not limited to, herbs, flowers, vegetables, potatoes, grapes, etc. The fields are to accommodate Audubon, health and wellness walks, including youth to senior programs

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven and/or to follow the achievements and actions Councilman Panico is taking to improve our communities please go to www.Brookhaven.org.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258