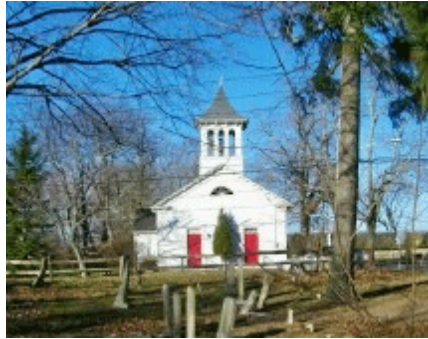


# Panico Preserves the Character of Manorville

posted on 7/27/2012 1:00:45 PM

July 27, 2012



## ***Brookfield Presbyterian Church to be preserved and acquired by the Town of Brookhaven***

**Farmingville, NY** - At the July 17 Town Board meeting, Councilman Dan Panico, along with his colleagues on the town board voted 6 to 1 to accept the donation of the building and land from the Presbytery of Long Island at the South Street location in Manorville.

"To me and most every resident of Manorville I believe this was a no-brainer," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "The Town of Brookhaven has invested millions of dollars over the years to help preserve the Manorville Farm-belt. This property is at the very edge of that farm-belt and is oddly zoned J2 business. The last thing anyone would want to see is for a boutique style retail store to open in this location, eroding the very character of the area and changing it forever. The intersection of Wading River and South Street in many ways defines that area of Manorville, and I am pleased to help keep that character intact."

The Presbytery of Long Island donated this land and building to the Town of Brookhaven, for no consideration, for general municipal purposes in order to preserve one of the remaining original Brookfield buildings.

The history of the Brookfield Presbyterian church in Manorville goes back 216 years, having been organized by the Long Island Presbytery on April, 19 1796, through the efforts of Jonathan Robinson.

Previous to that time Mr. Robinson had been conducting services at his home for several years as he realized there was no church in what was then an isolated settlement in the middle of the island.

His work was recognized by Presbytery, for in October, 1788, according to Prime's history, "they expressed their approbation of the course Mr. Robinson had pursued, and recognized him as a sort of catechist, to lead the devotions of that retired and isolated community, and besides reading well selected sermons, to give them a word of exhortation."

On the 26th of November, 1807, the Presbytery met at the "Brookfield Meeting House," which was the home of Mr. Robinson, and ordained him to the work of the ministry as pastor of the Brookfield church. He continued in this work until his death in 1824.

In 1839 the present church building was erected which was during the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Owen. The first Sunday school was organized in 1840 with Captain Seth Raynor as its first superintendent. The Rev. Phineas Robinson, son of the first pastor, was born here in 1798. He was a graduate of Hamilton College and Princeton Theological seminary and was active as a minister and teacher until his death in 1871 in Franklinville. He occupied the pulpit in the Brookfield church at various times.

The bell was added to the church about 1875.

Centennial service was held in the church in 1896. Historical sketches of the church were delivered by Thomas Thompson and Seth Raynor.

According to Edward E. Raynor, who is one of the oldest officers of the church, services have been conducted

throughout all years of the history of the church.

Ministers who have served this church during the early years of its existence included the following after the death of Mr. Robinson (The year listed refers to the year each minister began his service. The Rev. Edward Harris 1824; the Rev. Alfred Ketcham 1831; the Rev. Mr. Moase 1844; the Rev. Joseph Nimmo 1836; the Rev. Ezra King 1836; the Rev. Thomas Owens 1838; the Rev. Charles S. Lord 1845. From 1845 to 1874 services were conducted by visiting ministers. Next came the Rev. William H. Seeley 1874; the Rev. Charles J. Young, the Rev. William B. Lee and the Rev. Albert B. King from 1877 to 1887; The Rev. James S. Brockington 1887; The Rev. Samuel Whaley 1893; The Rev John Willis 1893.

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

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