

Councilman Panico Announces First of Several Public Meetings to Develop the Forge River Watershed Management Plan

posted on 12/1/2010 3:05:48 PM

Farmingville, NY - Councilman Daniel Panico has announced that the first of several public meetings to advise residents as to the status of the Forge River Watershed Plan will be held on Thursday, December 16 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Mastic Firehouse. At the meeting, the Town's consultant, Cameron Engineering will present the findings of the Watershed Characterization Report and accept public comment for consideration in preparation of the final plan. The Town received a grant from the New York State Department of State for the Forge River Watershed Management Plan and the final report will be prepared for the New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

"The restoration of the Forge River is of paramount importance to me and is an important factor to restoring the vitality of the surrounding community," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "These public meetings will give the residents important insight into the process. I will continue to work toward the ultimate goal of cleaning this river by working with the Forge River Task Force, Save the Forge River, and our other levels of government to accomplish this goal."

Topics to be presented at the public meeting include:

- The delineation of the Contributing Area to the Forge River (the land surrounding the river that contributes both surface and groundwater flow.
- Geography of the Forge River and its Contributing Area including the characteristics of its terrain, land cover, land use, bathymetry and groundwater.
- Infrastructure within the Contributing Area including stormwater systems, wastewater treatment plants, on-site septic systems, and marine facilities.
- Population characteristics such as demographics, socio-economic conditions and other household data.
- Water quality summary to provide an overview of the conditions within the waterways with respect to location, seasonal variations and key contaminants.
- Nitrogen inputs to the Forge River including their source and relative contribution to poor water quality conditions.
- Key habitats within the Forge River estuary and their impairments.
- Next steps in the plan including how the findings will facilitate the development of solutions.

The Forge River has a history of water quality issues and is classified as "Impaired Waters" due to the excessive levels of nitrogen entering the river. Nitrogen sources include storm water discharges, unsewered high density residential development and the river's own sediments which were deposited during decades of extensive duck farming that employed minimal waste treatment.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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