Supervisor Romaine and Councilman Panico Announce Open Space Acquisition in Center Moriches

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Pictured at left are Councilman Dan Panico (left) and Supervisor Ed Romaine (right). Pictured right is an aerial view of the recently purchased property for open space (outlined in red) in Center Moriches.

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine (right) and Councilman Dan Panico (left) have announced that the Town recently closed on a .28 acre parcel in Center Moriches to be preserved as open space. The property, formerly owned by the Grausso family, is adjacent to the Terrel River County Park. The park is on land acquired in the 1990s by the Town and County when the Havens Estate was preserved on the west bank of the Terrell River. Supervisor Romaine led the way to preserve the estate while he was a County Legislator, and since then, Brookhaven has aggressively pursued other acquisitions in the area for open space.

"Although small in size, this is part of a set of contiguous properties that the Town is working to preserve and it's the first step in the process," said Supervisor Romaine. "In addition, I've sent a letter to Suffolk County asking them to dedicate the northernmost parcel, which they own, to be included in the Terrel River County Park. Preserving these two 'bookends' will enhance the possibility of protecting the four middle parcels for open space."

"The Haven's Estate, also known as Terrell River County Park, is a wonderful place with hundreds of acres of waterfront open space that Supervisor Romaine preserved over two decades ago as a County Legislator," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Ed had the foresight then to move forward and preserve what would have been lost to single family homes. Now we are pleased to announce that we have added another parcel adjacent to this park that adds to the natural beauty of the area."

In related news, the Town Board adopted a resolution on June 18 to add $2 million to the "Joseph Macchia Fund" for land preservation. The additional $2 million in funding will be provided by existing funds in several accounts that had been budgeted in previous years for land preservation, but were not expended. No new tax dollars or new bond issues will be used for this funding. The Joseph Macchia Environmental Preservation Capital Reserve Fund is named after former Brookhaven Councilman Joseph Macchia, a Mount Sinai resident who served on the Town Board from 1979 until his death while in office in 1998. Macchia was the Chairman of Brookhaven's 1996 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and was a proponent of open space preservation. The Macchia Fund was Brookhaven's first program for land preservation; using $1.25 million to provide matching funds for county and state land purchases.

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