

Councilwoman Kepert and the Brookhaven Town Board Move Forward the Implementation of the Carmans River Conservation and Management Plan

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Farmingville, NY - At the June 4 Town Board Meeting, Brookhaven Councilwoman Kepert sponsored a series of resolutions to implement the recommendations of the Carmans River Conservation and Management Plan. The Plan includes the expansion of the boundaries of both the Central Pine Barrens region and the Compatible Growth Area. It promotes open space acquisitions, recommends nitrate and sanitary standards within the watershed area, and provides a recommendation for a series of up-zonings for parcels located within the Carmans River watershed.

The up-zonings, which create an area surrounding the river that is more restrictively zoned in an effort to reduce the intensity of development within the watershed area, began in January of 2015 with the rezoning of 1,787 acres of publically-owned land to A10, the most restrictive zoning category. These were followed by re-zonings of privately-owned parcels in Brookhaven Hamlet, South Yaphank, Yaphank, and Middle Island. In total, 2,375 parcels, or approximately 4,673 acres, were re-zoned in a tremendous effort to preserve the river.

The Brookhaven Town Board has also acquired hundreds of acres of open space within the Carmans River watershed area, including the 171 acre "Avalon Bay" property in Yaphank, the 17.35 acre "Garden Lane" property in Yaphank, the 12.5 acre "New Hope Revival Church" parcel in Brookhaven Hamlet and the 15.5 acre "Gray Fox" property in Yaphank. The purchase of these parcels will ensure that no future development occurs on these environmentally sensitive properties.

On January 29, 2015, Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Kepert co-sponsored an amendment to Chapter 78 of the Town Code to establish stricter discharge requirements for new sanitary systems and sewage treatment plants, as well as upgrades to existing systems and facilities, located within the 100-year groundwater contributing area of the Carmans River. These new standards will reduce the amount of nitrogen flow into the river and provide for the long term health of the water system.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "The future of the Carmans River is in our hands and it is vital to its survival that we carry out the management plan now and into the future. It presents us with a clear vision of what needs to be done in

order to protect and preserve the river as one of our Town's most beautiful and environmentally significant natural assets."

"All of these actions taken together will insure that the beauty of this great river will be preserved for future generations to enjoy, study, and protect," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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