Councilman Panico and Brookhaven Town Board Approve Historic Designation of Haven's Homestead in Center Moriches

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Farmingville, NY – A significant piece of history has been preserved in the Center Moriches hamlet with the unanimous approval by the Brookhaven Town Board at its September 17 Town Board Meeting to designate the John Scudder and Mary Pelletreau Havens Homestead as a Town Historic Landmark. The motion was made by Councilman Dan Panico at the request of the Moriches Bay Historical Society, the nonprofit organization that owns the property.

"This is an exciting moment," said Moriches Bay Historical Society President Burt Seides during the meeting. "This residence is a significant home with historical value, with a very prominent position in the community that helps to give it a sense of place."

Councilman Panico – who has been at the forefront of several other historic designations in the area – championed this latest initiative in a continued effort to preserve the unique character of the Moriches Bay area. In May, the Town Board unanimously approved the historic designation of nearby Lindenmere, the once prominent waterfront hotel on the bay that was a popular summer resort for many decades.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "Preserving our landmarks is an important step to understanding the past and the people who helped shape the history of our town. I commend Councilman Panico for his commitment to keeping our heritage alive for future generations."

"We are fortunate to have a historic structure such as the Havens Homestead in a condition that allowed the Town to pursue its important landmark designation," said Councilman Panico. "The Town is especially grateful to members of the Moriches Bay Historical Society for their dedicated efforts in pursuing the preservation of a piece of our local history."

Panico emphasized that the Historic Landmark Designation of the Havens Homestead protects it from future demolition, neglect or any other compromising forces that could threaten this historically noteworthy building.

Furthermore, the Town of Brookhaven Historic Advisory Committee will be required to conduct a thorough review of any proposed actions on the site, including changes to the design, material or outward appearance of the structure.

The John Scudder and Mary Pelletreau Havens Homestead was built in 1740, and moved to its present location on Montauk Highway in Center Moriches in 1974. Generations of the Havens family occupied the house, from 1740-1965. The home is a pre-revolutionary, 2 ½ story shingle house, which is one of the best preserved and oldest residences in the Moriches community.

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