

Town Closes On Open Space Donation of 65 Acres in the Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area in Yaphank

posted on 11/18/2015 5:19:00 PM



Farmingville, NY – Recently, Brookhaven Town closed on 65 acres of undeveloped land in Yaphank, donated by the owner, to be preserved as open space. The property, known as the “Enchanted Forest,” had originally been considered for a residential subdivision until it was included in the Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area expansion that took place several years ago. It is a heavily wooded, wildlife habitat that straddles the 0-2, 2-5, and 5-10 year groundwater contributing area to the Carmans River, delivering approximately 37 million gallons of pure water annually to the watershed.

Importantly, the properties are adjacent to existing publicly-owned open space in the form of the 115-acre “Camp Olympia” assemblage and are in close proximity to the Silver Corporate Park property, of which the town purchased 100 acres for open space in

October 2014. All combined, approximately 280 contiguous acres of open space have been permanently preserved in the area.

“Since I took office in 2012, the Town has purchased hundreds of acres of open space in the Pine Barrens and the Carmans River Watershed,” said Supervisor Ed Romaine. “Its close proximity to other lands that have been acquired by the town for open space will help to maintain water quality in this environmentally sensitive area. By purchasing property for open space, we reinforce our commitment to preserving the environment for the generations that will follow us.”

Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, “Since I took office in 2006, the Town has been working with Suffolk County and the owners of this piece and adjacent pieces to preserve and protect this important ecological treasure which lies within the Carmans River contributing area.”

Six of the seven properties (approx. 55 acres) that make up the new purchase are situated in the Core Preservation Area of the Central Pine Barrens and were eligible for Pine Barrens Credits pursuant to the allocation formula provided for in the Central Pine Barrens Plan. Once the credits were determined and removed, an easement was placed on the property and it was gifted to the Town.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595