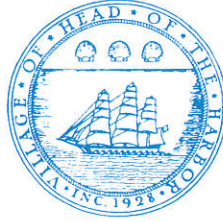


Village of Head-of-the-Harbor



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Police Chief

Honorable Robert Calarco
Presiding Officer
Suffolk County Legislature
William H. Rogers Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, NY 11787

Re: Resolution No.1025-2020, Directing the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning to analyze the Saint James-Stony Brook 25A Corridor.

Dear Presiding Officer Calarco:

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Head of the Harbor I write to endorse and support the subject resolution proposed by Legislator Kara Hahn regarding the Saint James-Stony Brook 25A Corridor.

The region proposed for the study is important and has been protected by the Village of Head of the Harbor for many years. The effort to preserve the historic beauty of the 25A corridor needs to continue, it is our history and heritage. We support Legislator Hahn's efforts to continue the effort to preserve this important area by creating awareness by requiring a special study and report.

It is noted that the historic route of 25A runs through and along Head of the Harbor. Long Island's North Country Road is one of the three major east-west arteries laid out in the 1700's following old Indian trails. In 1790, when President George Washington toured Long Island, he kept a diary mentioning each stop along what is now 25A. He traveled from Setauket, past Stony Brook, Head of the Harbor and St. James to the widow Blydenburgh's at Smith's Town where he fed his horses. Today the site of the widow's house is the Smithtown Library. President Washington in 1790 would not have passed many houses on his tour, but the alignment of 25A with its many dips and curves remains basically unchanged today. In many places, the rural appearance survives to this day. A major part of this rural ambiance is preserved in the area by the existence of the two farms that are a part of 214 acres of Avalon Park and Preserve, by the BBGG farms, the Mills Pond House, the Grist Mill in Stony Brook Pond, Box Hill, Wetherill House and by the popular tourist destination, the St. James General Store.

In 1969, the Village of Head of the Harbor designated Route 25A, to a depth of 500 feet, as the "North Country Road Historic Area." Any application to alter a structure within the historic area had to be approved by the Village's Architectural Review Board. The preamble to the legislation stated that "North

Country Road through and adjoining the Village is a place or site having a special character and special historical and aesthetic interest or value, being a relatively unchanged portion of the route travelled by President George Washington in 1790.

In 1973, the St. James Historic District and the Mills Pond Historic District were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several major buildings along Route 25A, Deepwells, Timothy House, Mills Pond House and St. James Episcopal Church are part of these Historic Districts and remain today as well preserved. At the time of designation the New York State Commissioner of Parks said "These two districts ... are almost adjoining, each extending for a half mile along some of the most picturesque sections of Route 25A - 90 acres in the St. James District and 200 acres in the Mills Pond District.

In 1974, the New York State Legislature established Route 25A as a "scenic and historic corridor."

Again, we applaud Legislator Hahn's initiative that the undeveloped areas of the 25A corridor be protected by a special review by Suffolk County's Department of Economic Development and Planning.

The Village of Head of the Harbor enthusiastically supports and stands in support Legislator Hahn's initiative.

Very truly yours,



Douglas A. Dahlgard
Mayor