



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

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TOWN SUPERVISORS CANCEL SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER STATE PARKS WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL

Senator Lavallo Plays Pivotal Role in Their Decision

RIVERHEAD, NY-- One day after Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walter and Southold Supervisor Scott Russell announced a press conference to take a stand against the sale of alcoholic beverages at Hallock State Park, the NYS Parks Department has agreed to withdraw their Request for Proposals (RFP) for vendors at the site. After hearing the concerns of our local officials, New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle urged the Parks Department to reconsider their position and has coordinated a meeting where local officials could assist in drafting a proposal consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hallock State Park's Master Plan.

Senator Ken LaValle said, "I reached out to the NY State Office of Parks and Recreation to express that local officials are 100% against alcohol being sold at a family park. I am pleased that they have agreed to withdraw the RFP and have a meeting with us to discuss plans for the Hallock State Park educational center moving forward."

"It seems to me that when the residents of eastern Long Island and officials from the State of New York advocated to purchase this property to develop a park, they saw it as an opportunity to promote outdoor recreational activities for people of all ages to enjoy," stated Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walter. "How we landed here isn't clear but I am grateful that our concerns did not fall upon deaf ears. Senator LaValle's assistance in getting the NYS Parks Department to withdraw their RFP until we can sit down to develop a sensible proposal is truly appreciated."

"I'm pleased with Senator Lavallo's direction on this. As it is a state park it should still include a local vision," said Southold Supervisor Scott Russell. "I look forward to our meeting where we can shape the proposal to capture that vision," he concluded.

New York State Assemblyman, Anthony H. Palumbo said, "Although some infrastructure is necessary to provide access and limited amenities to the Park, we need to focus on the true goals of this project. Balancing public recreation with the preservation of the natural resources while minimizing the environmental impacts is crucial." He concluded by saying, "Serving alcohol and creating a restaurant-type atmosphere goes far beyond the true vision of the Hallock State Park Preserve. I am pleased to see that the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation are withdrawing the proposal. Serving alcohol beverages is completely contrary to the values of our community."