

25A VISIONING

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Dick Amper, executive director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and a resident of the Route 25A corridor, was next.

"The process seemed to work as it was supposed to," Amper said, complimenting Councilwoman Jane Bonner (C-Rocky Point) for her leadership and "the people of those communities" who participated and provided suggestions and ideas to the process. "Let's move on to phase two," Amper concluded.

One reluctant note was sounded by MaryAnn Johnston, president of the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organization, who expressed concern the document was being accepted without her organization and others having had the opportunity to see it. Supervisor Mark Lesko said acceptance of the initial phase of the process, the visioning plan, was merely the first step. Lesko said phase 2, the corridor plan that will now be undertaken, requires a more formal procedure including review by interested parties prior to its adoption.

Bonner said the visioning document will be available online for all to see.

Finally Lee Koppleman, introduced by Lesko as "Suffolk's preeminent planner," wrapped up the presentation.

"The 25A study was an opportunity to observe community planning at its best," Koppleman said. He added that over 200 people took part in the process. Addressing Johnston's concern, Koppleman said the visioning plan "did not even require SEQRA review," the mandated state environmental assessment that would be part of phase two.

"Accepting this is just acknowledgement of a job well done," he said. Koppleman praised the consultant for the project, BFJ Planning, as "the best I've seen in the last four or five years."

Bonner then took the time to thank virtually every elected official, state and town department and group involved in the visioning, although she admitted at times the process "was like giving birth without pain killers."

After Lesko said he would not address that analogy, the board voted 7-0 to accept the document. There is as yet no timetable for the completion of phase 2, the corridor study.

The visioning plan is available online at www.brookhaven.org. Pull down the menu under "Departments" and click on "Planning and Environment."

RP company donates 500th cleaning

Teresa's Family Cleaning assists cancer patients across Long Island

Over the past four years, led by owner Teresa Ward, Teresa's Family Cleaning in Rocky Point has donated 500 free cleanings to women cancer patients across Long Island. The company, which has made the free cleanings the hallmark of their philanthropic work, now has a list of women waiting for this service.

To facilitate these cleanings, Ward has partnered with The GIFT (Giving, Inspiration, Fighting Together) program at Stony Brook University Medical Center, specifically the mastectomy patients of Dr. Brian O'hea, director of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center. The GIFT program provides support, education and amenities to patients coping with cancer. Their goals are made possible through fundraising efforts and

grants, and while Teresa's Family Cleaning is pleased to be able to partner with such an organization, they are not happy that the need still exists.

"It's wonderful that my company is able to help all of these women, and fortuitous that our 500th cleaning comes during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but at the same time, it's a tragedy that the help needs to be provided at all. It is my hope that one day these services will no longer be needed, and that breast cancer, and all cancers will become something of the past."

Ward met with Dr. O'hea, Linda Munktin and Linda Bily on Tuesday to discuss the continued future of the GIFT partnership with Teresa's Family Cleaning.



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