

Murray, Ambrosino and Darcy Move Forward With Elmont Urban Renewal Plan

With the vision of a vibrant, reinvigorated Elmont community in mind, Supervisor Kate Murray, Councilmen James Darcy and Edward Ambrosino, as well as the entire Hempstead Town Board recently adopted the report of the town's independent Planning Board for the urban renewal of the Argo Theatre Community Corners area. The town board's resolution will allow the plan for the redevelopment of the stretch between Elmont Road and Hempstead Turnpike to move forward.

"This is a major step in the process of securing Elmont's future according to the community's wishes," Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray said. "We are working to beautify the former Argo Movie Theatre area and to bring a much-needed commercial business to Elmont."

The Urban Renewal Plan seeks to redevelop approximately three acres of blighted, underutilized commercial property into a 40,000 square foot supermarket with parking. The supermarket is consistent with the Elmont community's vision for the area as expressed by residents during various community visioning meetings.

The Planning Board must be given the opportunity to review and act upon all town Urban Renewal Plans. Specifically, the Board determined in its November 12, 2008 decision that the site in question was "suitable for urban renewal" and that essentially the town's plan for urban renewal was consistent with the community's "vision" for the location.

"The people of Elmont have indicated their desire to bring new businesses to this location," Councilman Edward Ambrosino said. "While attracting new businesses to underutilized sites, we can stimulate the local economy and revitalize downtown Elmont," Councilman James Darcy added.

The adoption of the Planning Board's report is an important stage in the process of bringing the redevelopment plan to fruition. Later stages require the Town Board to approve the Urban Renewal Plan and proceed with the acquisition and redevelopment of the former Argo Movie Theatre properties.

"Elmont is a vibrant and diverse community as well as a beautiful gateway to Hempstead Town," Murray stated. "The Urban Renewal Plan will ensure the bright future of this community for years to come by helping to restore a hub of Elmont's business district."