

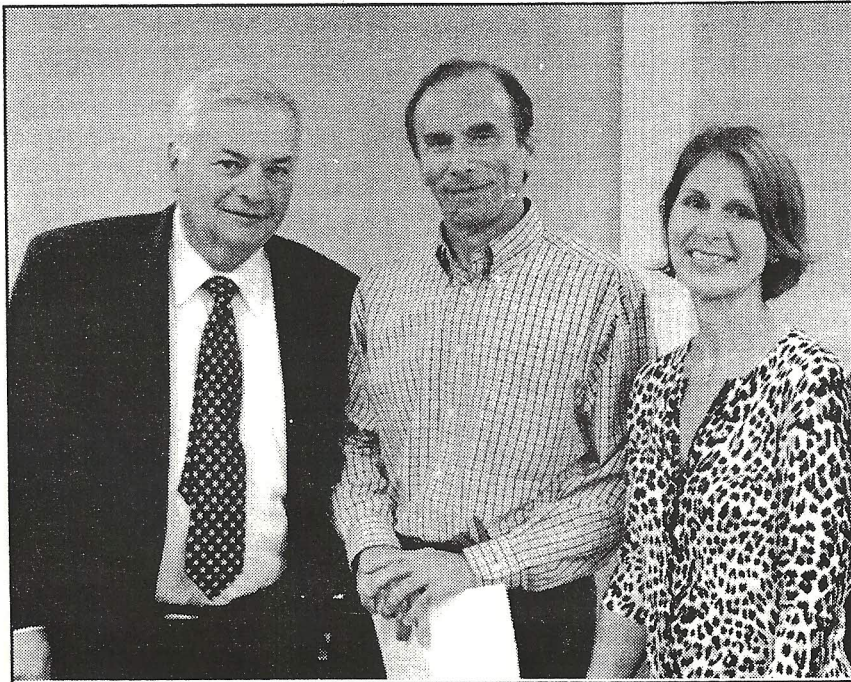
# TOB to Get First Dog Park On Louden in Massapequa

## *First Dog Park Scheduled for March in Massapequa, Sets the Stage for Others*

BY DAGMAR FORS KARPPI

The Town of Oyster Bay will soon get its first dog park. The promise was made by Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto at the end of the Oct. 18 board meeting. Town residents Peggy Heijmen of Oyster Bay and Michael Peress of Jericho spoke in favor of the dogs.

Peggy Heijmen, a resident of Oyster Bay and a member of Long Island Dog, a 5013(c)3 organization was there to ask for access to parks and beaches for Long Island dog



Hal Maher, TOB environmental consultant with Michael Peress of Jericho and Peggy Heijmen of Oyster Bay.

owners. Ms. Heijmen said in June 2110 the group submitted a petition signed by 300 dog owners asking for a dog park in the town. She said they hoped when the SEA Fund was passed that the town would put some funds aside to provide a safe place for dogs to exercise. They suggested a potential site that was the former Liberty site, and is now known as the Allen Park Extension, a site in South Farmingdale; and one in Massapequa, Louden Avenue.

The town gave them positive feedback last year, but since then nothing has happened. "We want to be able to enjoy the parks and beaches with our dogs," she said.

"I live near TR Park and walk my dog in the area by the train station," but she said she cannot legally bring the dog into the park. There are signs up saying "no dogs allowed."

She said, "This is an unfriendly place to live with your dog."

### The Right Place

Mr. Venditto said straight out, "You are 110 percent right." He said he thought he could live up to his saying they would create a dog park for the town. He said the intent and motivation were there but it was a case of finding the right place for the dog park. He said, "The Town of Oyster Bay is not like NYC. We more jealously guard our quality of life." He said he understood Ms. Heijmen's feelings about dogs saying his daughter is "beyond love" with dogs. He said, "It just takes a little longer in the Town of Oyster Bay [to act], but we are prepared to open a dog park."

### Longtime Project

In a telephone interview Hal Maher, TOB environmental consultant, explained that, "A dog park has been a long time project for the



Also attending the hearing were the president of LI Dogs, an owners group – and Barbara Buscareno, vice president and Ginny Munger Kahn, president.

town and Councilwoman Rebecca Alesia has taken an interest in it and has been looking into it. There are problems inherent in that in some residential areas there are neighbors who are close and would not like it 'in their back yard'. The first site that is workable is on Louden Avenue in Massapequa. It is a 5 ½ acre park and the engineers say about 1 ½ acres are needed for a dog park. It will need parking for the owners as well as drainage and lighting."

Mr. Maher explained what the Supervisor said, that the Massapequa location is not readily accessible to people from Oyster Bay, but it meets all the criteria including that it won't bother anyone. The supervisor also said they were interested in finding sites more centrally located in the town such as in Hicksville, Plainview or Syosset.

At the meeting the Supervisor said, "There will be a meeting in Allen Park shortly to talk to residents about a dog park. It means another night out," for the staff.

Mr. Maher explained, "The town recently acquired the Liberty site, now called Allen Park. In the spring there will

continued on page 20

