



Green Party of Suffolk

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Green Party Backs Department of Biodiversity Protection Proposed To Save The Natural Life of Suffolk County

At its March 30th meeting, the Green Party of Suffolk County voted unanimously to pass resolution requiring that its candidate for Suffolk County Executive in this year's election must support the establishment of a Suffolk County Department of Biodiversity Protection. The resolution was introduced by North Babylon Green Kimberly Wilder, who observed: "Natural biodiversity is all of the natural collection of life, and we need a Department of Biodiversity Protection to truly protect what remains of our county's rich natural plant and animal life for future generations and for the sake of this life itself." The resolution also requires screenings of candidates from other political parties to be held to aid the Green Party in deciding whether to support one of those candidates at its June 7th cross-endorsement meeting or to run an enrolled Green for County Executive.

Roger Snyder, a Huntington resident and the Suffolk County Green Party Chairperson, stated: "The Green Party clearly sees the urgent need for something that would replace and/or supplement current county agencies and would bioscientifically plan for and protect our natural biodiversity from further degradations and extinctions. That something so much needed is the kind of holistic Department of Biodiversity Protection designed and proposed by pre-eminent Long Island bioscientist Frederick C. Schlauch. The Green Party wholeheartedly agrees with Fred Schlauch that, to be effective, the Department of Biodiversity Protection must be administered by bioecologists, zoologists, botanists and other staff professionally qualified to perform the in-depth scientific planning and field research necessary to prevent further degradations of and extinctions within the natural biodiversity in our parklands and elsewhere in the county."

Snyder continued: "Much of Suffolk County's original biodiversity -- including endangered and threatened species -- still survives on thousands of county parkland."

Biologist Fred Schlauch himself confirmed: "Suffolk County has purchased thousands of acres with millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars under its open space program. But the failure of Suffolk County government to protect the rich biodiversity treasures of these fragile pine barrens and other lands is a travesty. Just as a hospital cannot be regarded as being able to fulfill its responsibilities to its patients if its staff comprises administrators and orderlies but no doctors

nor nurses, the present Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is a bureaucracy completely lacking the bioecologists and other qualified staff needed to plan for and protect the natural biodiversity surviving on county parklands. Much of the biodiversity loss is gradual and noticeable only to the highly trained eyes of attentive bioscientists, but there are no such bioscientists in county government to so notice and plan and take the needed corrective actions. Much biodiversity is undoubtedly being lost to ecologically very unsound trail-blazing, habitat fragmentation, inadequate protective fencing, turtle and like pet collecting, unnatural vegetation succession, alien organism introduction, native gene pool degradation, plant and animal population truncation, and the like. These negative impacts and the great loss of our precious biodiversity will continue unless there is a major change in the way county government treats its natural biotic treasures.”

Schlauch concluded: “I am extremely pleased that the Green Party fully supports my concept for the establishment of a Department of Biodiversity Protection. I am hopeful that at least one candidate from one of the other parties will likewise strongly commit to the establishment of such a department and that the Green Party will be part of a fusion campaign to elect this candidate who will bring the needed kind of commitment to our natural biodiversity and establish this department which would mean so much to life itself.”