

**REVISED GOLF COURSE PROPOSAL
UNOPPOSED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS
Three-year Conflict Over Baiting Hollow Project is Ended**

**News Conference, Monday, June 30, 2:00 P.M.
Friars Head, 2850 Sound Avenue, Baiting Hollow
(East of Osborne Avenue & West of Horton Avenue Riverhead NY)
For Release: June 30**

The developer of the now-completed Friars Head Golf Course in Baiting Hollow will submit a revised proposal for a change of zone to the Town of Riverhead, today. Satisfied that their concerns about the project have been overcome under the new plan, environmentalists who successfully sued to block the original plan, have withdrawn their objections.

Representatives of Traditional Links, LLC, the developer of Friars Head and environmentalists including the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, North Fork Environmental Council and Long Island Neighborhood Network met over the course of a year to overcome the environmentalists' concerns about the project on land they had targeted for preservation.

Last year, a state appellate court overturned approval of the golf course project citing a number of violations of state environmental law. "Working in concert with environmental organizations, we have amended our application to take into account their concerns," said Kenneth Bakst, Managing Member of Traditional Links. "I think everyone's needs have been met and I am pleased that this cooperative process will allow the project to move ahead without objection," he added.

The revised plan calls for a dramatic reduction in the number of houses that can be built on the land -- from as many as 333 to 70. The project layout has been re-designed to protect the most important natural areas of the property and a pro-organic approach to turf grass maintenance has been agreed to. "While we would have preferred to see the property preserved, the golf course is complete and will be economically beneficial to Riverhead, and the overall project is much more environmentally responsible, thanks to the cooperative approach we've all taken," said Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper. "This is an excellent example of working out differences among stakeholders before engaging government," he said, "I guess we're all wishing we had used this approach three years ago."

A key wish of environmentalists was that Traditional Links consider "organic golf," a term used to stress the preference for limiting chemical herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. North Fork Environmental Council and Long Island Neighborhood Network have been promoting "organic golf," across Long Island. The two groups met with Traditional Links and other golf course operators and won promises of cooperation for a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility and benefits of the approach. Debra O'Kane, Executive Director of NFEC said, "We are pleased to know that Friar's Head is committed to reducing the impacts of pesticides on our ground and surface waters. They will be setting a great example for other golf courses." And, Neal Lewis, Executive Director of LINN added, "It is good to see golf courses are taking steps to reduce pesticide use and work with safer, organic products for the sake of drinking water protection."

"The environmentalists made reasonable requests and we responded reasonably," Bakst concluded. "I heartily recommend this approach to overcoming difficulties in the future."