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## 2009 Environmental Questionnaire for Town of Brookhaven

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Connie Kepert

District: Council District 4

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### PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that would indicate your commitment to advancing a sustainability agenda for Brookhaven. These may be professional or personal.

*I have been a strong advocate of sustainable development within the Town of Brookhaven. As a civic leader I brought national leaders like Dan Burton, and Rick Hall to Brookhaven to inform and educate community residents. As a Town Council member I moved the adoption of the Middle Country Road Land Use Plan, and the implementation of the Plan through both extensive upzonings within transitional areas, as well as, working with applicants to move forward mixed use projects within the centers of Middle Island and Coram.*

*I have also initiated visionings within the communities of Gordon Heights, and the Greater*

*Bellport area.*

## ISSUE QUESTIONS

Please articulate specific policy and budgetary proposals that would advance the following goals:

2. Combating climate change by reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption

*In my first term as councilwoman I worked to make Energy Star Homes mandatory within the Town of Brookhaven by bringing together both builders and environmentalists we were able to forge legislation that met the concerns of builders and reduced energy usage in homes by 15%.*

*An Energy Star home will avoid 2.25 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. That equates to 18,000 tons of greenhouse gases which otherwise would have been emitted into the environment. That is the equivalent of taking 3,500 cars off the roads annually, or 38,000 barrels of oil not burned each year.*

3. Promoting sustainable land use policies

*In addition to moving forward Land Use Plans, and visionings, I am the liaison to the Planning Department, and Chair of Brookhaven 2030. Brookhaven 2030 will guide future land use within the Town by promoting hubs, or centers of development and clearing outline those areas which should be preserved or developed less intensely. The plan currently recommends two Transit oriented developments, and seeks to diversify transportation options.*

4. Developing sustainable solid waste policies

*We have engaged in an educational campaign concerning the Pay As You Throw system or Save Money as you Reduce Trash, or SMART. I have hired a consultant to work with staff and provide information to residents. SMART if adopted by the Town will significantly increase recycling as well as reduce waste.*

5. Reducing congestion and increasing mass transit ridership

*To reducing congestion and increasing transit ridership we need to create origins and destinations that are not spread out all over the landscape. Transit viability as well as the reduction of congestion will occur when we begin to create pedestrian oriented villages. Congestion mitigation all depends on creating a network of roadways rather than funneling all traffic on to overused arterials.*

6. Protecting our extensive shoreline and improving water quality

*In my first term in office I was made aware of the negative environmental effects of Mega Laundromats. From monitoring wells placed around these mega facilities Suffolk County Health Department have found several plumes of MBAS, (detergent),forming agents, DEET, and traces of*

*pharmaceuticals.*

*I, therefore, moved forward legislation that requires that proposed mega Laundromats must receive a special permit from the Town Board. Laundromats that hold 50 or more double load machines, have 5000 square feet of interior space, and generate 30,000 gallons of waste water per day are deemed mega Laundromats. These mega Laundromats must now be located a minimum of one hundred feet(100') from the building to the property lines on a parcel size of at least 65,000 square feet; provide a minimum of one hundred seventy-five foot (175') natural and undisturbed buffer from any freshwater and/or tidal wetlands and a minimum of one hundred fifty feet (150') buffer from the property line of the nearest residence or parcel zoned for residential use.*

7. Improving air quality

*I am currently working to move forward the Green Home Initiative within the Town of Brookhaven. The Green Homes Initiative will provide home owners with an incentive to invest in energy conservation measures. This program helps save strapped homeowners money. It creates green collar jobs, helping the economy, it helps the environment by reducing carbon by 130,000 tons a year, and it is a revolving fund, which will cost the taxpayer nothing.*

*This is a natural addition to the Energy Star Program which targets with new construction. Green homes targets older homes. How it works: Town certified building performance specialists are sent to the homes of residents who are interested in participating in the program. They conduct a home performance evaluation and provide the homeowner with a report which evaluates each sector of the house, such as the boiler, windows and attic. Finally the homeowner choses from a menu of options. The Town provides the homeowner with a benefit assessment of up to \$12,000 to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and decrease their costs. The repayment for upgrades is structured so that the payment is slightly less than the projected energy savings.*

8. Committing to green procurement

*I fully support green procurement and have voted in favor of such policies for the Town of Brookhaven.*

9. Supporting a sustainable economy by encouraging clean-tech industries and “green collar” jobs

*As stated above I am working to promote the Green Homes Initiative which will create green collar jobs. I am also attempting to move forward a “Green Triangle” within the Town.*