



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pete Harckham

## Harckham's Land Swap Bill in Southeast a "Win-Win" for Residents and Business Owners

PETE HARCKHAM October 7, 2020

| ISSUE: **TOWN OF SOUTHEAST, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES**



*Brewster, NY* – New York State Senator Pete Harckham announced today that his bill to allow the Town of Southeast to create a “land swap” deal with an expanding sports and recreation business has been signed into law by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

The bill, S.8256A, paves the way for ProSwing Sports Realty, Inc. to build its new, state-of-the-art athletic training and recreation facility on Puglsey Road in between Brewster and Lake

Carmel, while also increasing the size of the town's parkland.

"My legislation, now approved, to permit the Town of Southeast to convey a parcel of its parkland in exchange for another property within the town is a win-win deal for residents and taxpayers," said Harckham. "This 'land swap' with ProSwing Sports provides the Town with a much larger property and soon a world-class baseball facility will be contributing substantial economic benefits, including jobs and tax revenue, to the community."

It was necessary for Harckham to create "home rule" legislation in order to "alienate" or loosen the state restrictions on designated parklands. In exchange for being granted the 82 acres of parkland on Pugsley Road, of which 10 acres will be developed while the remaining land remains dedicated open space, ProSwing is handing over a 94.9-acre parcel on Starr Ridge Road to the town for use as parkland. The new law also accepts the Starr Ridge Road property as protected parkland.

The new law is in line with the Town of Southeast's Comprehensive Plan, which encourages private/public cooperation to expand recreational opportunities for the region.

"The facility on Pugsley Road will promote youth athletics, sportsmanship, diversity, economic growth and scholastic opportunity for young men and women throughout the region," said Dan Gray, general manager and director of baseball and softball operations at ProSwing Sports. "The new law also makes possible additional parkland for passive recreation located on Starr Ridge Road, which has been designated a historic and scenic route by the Town of Southeast. We are entirely grateful for the opportunity to provide a healthy, nurturing environment for our communities in order to promote and develop self-esteem, team building, and leadership skills."

The land on Pugsley Road was purchased by the Town of Southeast originally in order to preserve open space in the community. The land being received by the town on Starr Ridge

Road was initially zoned for residential use and would have needed to be rezoned for the sports training facility to be built there.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2019-S8256A

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- Introduced
  
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
  
- Delivered to Governor
  
- Signed By Governor
  
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Authorizing the town of Southeast, county of Putnam, to alienate certain lands used as parkland and to dedicate certain other lands as parklands

April 29, 2020

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Pete Harckham**

Do you support this bill?