



CIBS hosts panel on the future of Melville town center development

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Melville, NY The Commercial and Industrial Brokers Society of Long Island (CIBS) hosted its panel discussion titled, “The Melville Town Center – Will it Succeed and is It a Model for Other Long Island Municipalities?” on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. The event gathered industry leaders and real estate professionals to discuss the potential of the Melville Town Center development and its broader implications for Long Island municipalities.

Moderated by Peter Curry, partner at Farrell Fritz, P.C., the panel featured notable experts in the real estate and development sectors:

David Pennetta, CIBS co-president and executive managing director at Cushman & Wakefield of Long Island

Michael Florio, CEO of the Long Island Builders Institute

Louis Bekofsky, principal and managing director at VHB Engineering

Kelly Coughlan Heck, executive vice president and partner at Tritec

The discussion provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by the Melville Town Center project, which seeks to redevelop the Maxess Road Neighborhood from outmoded industrial and office uses into a vibrant mixed-use community encompassing commercial, residential, and recreational spaces. The panel also explored whether the project could serve as a replicable model for other municipalities on Long Island.

“The Melville Town Center project has the potential to reshape the way Long Island approaches mixed-use development,” said Curry, who emphasized the importance of the project. “This conversation demonstrated that this initiative could indeed serve as a blueprint for other municipalities looking to balance commercial and multi-family growth with community needs.”

The event underscored the importance of collaboration between developers, local governments, and the community to ensure that Long Island continues to thrive as a commercial and residential hub. Touching on the broader issue of Long Island’s real estate development, panelists delved into the need for sustainable growth strategies, community engagement, and the critical role of infrastructure

investment.

“CIBS is proud to facilitate important conversations like this one,” said CIBS co-president David Pennetta. “As Long Island continues to evolve, it’s essential that we remain proactive in addressing the challenges and opportunities of major development projects like Melville Town Center.”

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