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## Montauk Advocacy Group Names Thiele Aide As New Director

The Concerned Citizens of Montauk announced last week that they have hired Laura Tooman, a longtime legislative aide to State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr., to be the group's new president.

"She is a widely respected environmental policy maker with deep roots in the East End community," Ed Braun, the chairman of CCOM's board of directors, said in a statement on Wednesday, March 29. "Her experience in water quality, coastal planning and the Community Preservation Fund will advance CCOM's key initiatives. She's worked in partnership with CCOM with both New York State and East Hampton Town on Montauk's environmental challenges and brings an unparalleled fluency and familiarity with our issues."

Ms. Tooman lives in Sag Harbor and has worked in Mr. Thiele's office for six years. She is also a member of the Southampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead CCOM at a time when so many critical water quality, coastal resiliency, and community planning and redevelopment initiatives are on the table," Ms. Tooman said this week. "I look forward to continuing the great work CCOM has already accomplished and working with the community to expand our efforts to protect what we love most about Montauk."

She will replace Jeremy Samuelson, the group's first paid executive director and president, who left the organization at the end of last month to take over as director of the Nature Conservancy's Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island.

The group also recently hired a new environmental advocate, Kate Ross-Snook, to lead its expanding environmental monitoring programs.