

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

Letters to the Editor

Published November 21, 2013

Dear David,

Montauk's beaches are a critical natural and economic resource. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will soon return with detailed proposals for an "engineered beach" in downtown. Concerned Citizens of Montauk believes strongly that East Hampton Town and ACOE must:

1. Adopt an open and transparent public process;
2. Avoid stone seawalls, revetments or groins;
3. Hire an independent coastal engineering firm to guide the community in understanding and selecting the options and to work with ACOE throughout the design and construction process;
4. Select from the "soft" options (a wide sand beach backed by either a dune made of sand only or a geo-tube dune covered in sand);
5. Select an option that is environmentally sound and economically feasible;
6. Include Ditch Plains as a critical part of the sand transport system;
7. Understand the project does not protect Montauk against sea level rise and that our community must immediately start developing a coastal resiliency and adaptation plan.

For 43 years, Concerned Citizens of Montauk has worked to protect the environment and ecology of Montauk. Whatever is built through the ACOE process will define Montauk's ocean beach for decades to come. It is critical our community and elected leaders get it right.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Samuelson, Executive Director, Concerned Citizens of Montauk