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CCOM Hires Widely Respected Environmentalist Laura Tooman as President

For Immediate Release

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Montauk, New York - Concerned Citizens of Montauk today announced that Laura Tooman will join CCOM as President, effective May 1st. Tooman succeeds Jeremy Samuelson as the leader of Montauk's oldest and largest environmental organization.

"We are pleased to welcome Laura as the new President of CCOM," said CCOM Board Chairman, Ed Braun. "She is a widely-respected environmental policy maker with deep roots in the East End community. 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. In combination with our recent hire of Kate Rossi-Snook as environmental advocate, Laura Tooman provides increased leadership resources to CCOM's efforts in serving the Montauk community," remarked Braun.

Ms. Tooman joins CCOM after more than six years with Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. where she advised him on statewide environmental planning and other local policy issues. As a member of the Southampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals, Laura has developed a thorough understanding of local zoning ordinances, giving her a keen ability to assist CCOM with its review of pending redevelopment proposals in Montauk.

Ms. Tooman also worked for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, where she was the Coordinator of the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP). Tooman has served on many critical environmental task forces and committees including the Town of East Hampton's Wastewater Project Advisory Committee, Energy and Sustainability Committee, and its Nature Preserve Committee. She has also served as a technical advisor for the Long Island Pesticide Use Management Plan, the New York State Seagrass Task Force, the PEP Open Shellfishing Waters Workgroup, the PEP Phase II Stormwater Workgroup, and PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee. Ms. Tooman earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Management from the University of Rhode Island.

“I have been a longtime admirer of CCOM’s work and am honored to be entrusted with the responsibility to lead the organization during such a critical time,” commented Tooman. “Montauk is at a crossroads right now and the actions we take will determine our future for generations. I look forward to working collaboratively with the community to set a path that Keeps Montauk *Montauk*,” she said. Laura and her husband, avid Montauk surfcasters, reside in Sag Harbor with their daughter.

Since its founding in 1970, CCOM has grown to become one of the most effective environmental groups in Eastern Long Island, helping to successfully protect nearly 70% of Montauk’s land. Founded as an all-volunteer organization, CCOM now employs three full-time professional staff members who work with CCOM’s board, its 1300 members, and neighbors to build grassroots coalitions to protect Montauk’s environment.

For further information visit CCOM’s website and Facebook page.

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