



## TOWN CREATES TWO NEW COMMITTEES

### BEACH PRESERVATION & WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The Montauk Beach Preservation Committee was formed in July 2018 to address the ongoing concern over the condition and necessary restoration of the Downtown Montauk beach area. With uncertain timing and delivery of federal efforts planned through the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Plan (FIMP), additional work may be necessary to enhance and prolong the lifespan of planned restoration efforts.

Chaired by CCOM President, Laura Tooman, the Committee has secured \$200K in Town funding to undertake the necessary planning and design work to advance the Committee's charge. The Town, at the Committee's recommendation, issued a Montauk Beach Re-nourishment Funding Feasibility Study Request for Proposals in late 2018. It is hoped that a contractor will be selected shortly to help the Town and Committee examine the possible funding options for a large-scale sand-only beach re-nourishment effort; including looking at the feasibility of creating a beach erosion control district.

The Montauk Community Wastewater System Committee was created in October 2018 to advance preliminary efforts to address the downtown Montauk wastewater crisis. Numerous properties in the downtown area have low-to-non-functioning septic systems which are antiquated and polluting ground and surface waters like Fort Pond. Downtown Montauk commercial lots are too small and do not have sufficient space to install individual low-nitrogen systems. As such, the Committee has been meeting to examine the process and feasibility of creating a wastewater treatment district and a centralized sewage treatment system. Several preliminary efforts have already been undertaken on both a town-wide and Montauk-specific basis through the Town's Comprehensive Town-wide Wastewater Management Plan.

## ACTION ALERT!

### PSEG-LI SUBSTATION SITING OPEN HOUSE

CCOM urges its members to attend an upcoming Open House to be hosted by PSEG-LI on **Tuesday, April 2 from 10am-8pm at the Montauk Playhouse Community Center**, located at 240 Edgemere Street in Montauk.

PSEG-LI is expected to share information on planned system improvements, present alternative substation options, and will solicit community and public comments. Specifically, the Open House has been scheduled by PSEG-LI as it is looking to replace the current substation located on Industrial Road, directly on Fort Pond.

While the utility company has reviewed several different alternative sites - most notably Shore Road, Flamingo Road, and the Landfill - CCOM believes that the placement of any new energy infrastructure should be done so in the most environmentally responsible manner.

**CCOM would also object to any alternatives which would place infrastructure in an area which has been identified as an area at high risk for near-term storm surge and sea level rise.** CCOM looks forward to reviewing and weighing in on the alternative substation locations and urges its members to do the same.

## MONTAUK WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

### CPF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

Using our water testing results as a guide, CCOM has successfully advocated for a number of CPF-funded water quality improvement projects around Lake Montauk, which have now been approved by the Town Board. Some of these projects include permeable pavement and bioswales to help reduce stormwater runoff, and a constructed wetland at South Lake which can offer filtration, fish habitat, and a barrier from storm surge.

As of January 2017, CCOM Environmental Advocate Kate Rossi-Snook sits on the Town CPF Water Quality Improvement Technical Advisory Committee. She was asked to review the 2014 Lake Montauk Watershed Management Plan and pinpoint recommended projects that would have the greatest positive effect. Over the past two years she has ensured that such projects will be completed.

Additionally, CCOM's testing results have consistently shown elevated bacteria levels at the outfall pipe at the Surfside Place beach, pointing to a clear public health problem. We have been working with the Town to get a filter installed at the pipe and start investigating the source of the polluted water for further remediation.

## MONTAUK SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

### OUR 5TH YEAR OF CO-SPONSORSHIP

Over 100 student projects were evaluated and scored by a panel of 18 judges representing the Montauk community and regional environmental organizations including the Peconic Estuary Program, The Nature Conservancy, South Fork Natural History Museum, and Peconic Bay Keeper.

All 7th and 8th grade winners are eligible to advance to the Long Island Science Congress regional competition, and the 3rd through 6th grade first place winners are eligible to advance to the Elementary Science Fair at Brookhaven National Lab.

"CCOM is happy to help organize this event every year with the School," says Environmental Advocate Kate Rossi-Snook. "It is so important to expose kids to different forms of scientific exploration and the environmental community, and every year the judges have a blast interacting with them. We are very proud of all of the student participants – well done!"

5th through 8th grade students who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd were awarded cash prizes from CCOM and the Montauk School totaling \$1400.



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**CCOM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization. We have been keeping Montauk Montauk since 1970 thanks to donors like you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Southampton Septic Replacement Info Session: April 15th**

Town & Suffolk County Presentations w/ Audience Q&A

**Climate Change: April 19th**

Guest Speaker: Cate Rogers  
Climate Reality Project, LI Chapter

**East Hampton Septic Replacement Info Session: April 30th**

Town & Suffolk County Presentations w/ Audience Q&A

**Great Montauk Cleanup: May 4th**

10am - 1pm (Rain Date: May 5th)  
Meet at CCOM Office, 6 S. Elmwood Ave.

[\*\*VISIT CCOM'S EVENT PAGE FOR MORE INFO!\*\*](#)