



April 2, 2019

Honorable Peter Van Scoyoc and East Hampton Town Board Members  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, NY

**Re: Support of Community Preservation Land Acquisitions- Fort Pond Watershed**

Dear Supervisor Van Scoyoc and Town Board Members,

Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) has been extensively monitoring Fort Pond's water quality, and one thing is clear- ***Fort Pond is experiencing a water quality crisis***. Bacterial contamination and harmful algal blooms fueled by excess nutrients are plaguing the Pond.

A multifaceted, comprehensive subwatershed approach is needed to tackle the crisis. Stormwater runoff mitigation, a downtown community wastewater system, and an intensive land acquisition program must all be undertaken- together in tandem.

It has come to my attention that the Town is considering the acquisition of 35 South Endicott Place and 86 South Elroy Drive, both of which are waterfront lots which sit on the shores of Fort Pond. When land is preserved and protected from development, you are taking unmistakable steps to protect ground and surface waters from future nitrogen or bacteria contamination from septic systems and unnecessary nutrients and other harmful pesticides and chemicals which people use to maintain their properties. ***CCOM overwhelming supports the acquisition of 35 South Endicott Place and 86 South Elroy Drive through the Community Preservation Fund.***

Additionally, CCOM would urge to the Town to pursue the acquisition of 85 Edgemere, and any other Fort Pond waterfront lots that become available for purchase. A strategic, highly concentrated land acquisition program will increase the effectiveness of water quality preservation potential.

Sincerely,

Laura Tooman  
President  
Concerned Citizens of Montauk