

CCOM NEWSLETTER – MAY 2020



Welcome to our monthly environmental update from Montauk where we are all sheltering in place and reminded of the importance of science in our everyday lives. CCOM's commitment to science and ensuring coastal resiliency, improved water quality, and environmental sustainability remains at the forefront of our daily work and we can report progress in all three areas.

Firstly, our leadership in [Coastal Adaptation and Resiliency Planning \(CARP\)](#) has enabled the completion of an extensive scientific analysis of five coastal areas in Montauk: Downtown Montauk, Ditch Plains, Fort Pond, Soundview Drive / Captain Kidds Path and Culloden Point. This will inform the community's development of comprehensive long term solutions and we will be actively engaged in the sharing of that work in the weeks ahead.

Secondly, our work in [water quality improvement](#) remains steadfast. We are thrilled to be kicking off our third year of harmful algal bloom (HAB) sampling as our town-wide bacteria monitoring program continues.

We also continue to advocate for advancing efforts to reduce our region's reliance on fossil fuels, which means we have been closely following the progress of the South Fork Windfarm.

It is also gratifying to see the adoption of the [Montauk Hamlet Plan](#) this month which addresses several critical environmental issues in Montauk. CCOM played a key role in advancing the community's engagement in this planning process and we look forward to the implementation phase of this work.

Stay tuned next month for some exciting announcements, including CCOM's first high school scholarship award. Until then, please stay safe and continue finding peace in Montauk's natural beauty.

Warmest regards,

President

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TESTING MONITORING RESUMES FOR THIRD SEASON

We have received confirmation that CCOM's partnership with the Gobler Lab at Stony Brook Southampton to test for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Fort Pond is considered "essential research" because the results are reported at the State level and are a matter of public safety.

This season of sampling will mark our third year conducting this important work. Despite the challenges facing us now, we are committed to advancing our understanding of these blooms to better protect the health of our environment and our community.

Our regular bacteria testing will be occurring weekly starting in June. As always, we will continue to share our results with press outlets and on our [website](#) and social media pages. The HAB testing results will be included in those press releases as we receive them.



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SEPTIC REPLACEMENT Q&A VIRTUAL MEETING ON AVAILABLE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Through a partnership with Suffolk County's Reclaim Our Water program and generous support from The Long Island Community Foundation, we have been helping people get through the process of upgrading their outdated cesspools and septic systems to new technologies that help reduce nitrogen entering our water – and now our informational meetings are continuing virtually!

By upgrading your septic system, you can help improve water quality – especially now with the old systems being under much heavier use as we have all been sheltering in place. Join our Zoom Meeting to view an updated presentation by East Hampton Town Natural Resources, including information on Town, County, and State financial incentive programs.

WHEN: Friday, May 29, 2020 at 10:30 am

WHERE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81428152758>

No registration or password required.

While you will be able to ask questions during the meeting, for best efficiency we ask that you send us any specific questions in advance so that we may prepare full, detailed answers. Please email your questions to Info@PreserveMontauk.org by Wednesday, May 27th.

OFFSHORE WIND FARM UPDATE

PROJECT PROGRESS DELAYED

The South Fork Wind Farm project has been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, leading to delays in completing the Public Service Commission (PSC) Article VII application process and postponing the ocean and Wainscott test hole

surveys. In addition, unrelated to the pandemic, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has paused the project's environmental review and permitting as it awaits the results of a cumulative impact study that includes additional offshore wind projects in development.



The South Fork Wind Farm, sited 35 miles off Montauk, is expected to deliver 130 megawatts of electric power to 70,000 homes, with the average monthly electric bill estimated to rise by about \$1.50. This project will help New York State achieve its aggressive renewable and offshore wind targets and capacity goals, as announced in July 2019 and detailed [HERE](#).

CCOM believes that, in order to meet our regions greenhouse gas emission targets, we need a comprehensive portfolio of renewable and alternative energies AND extensive energy conservation efforts. Specific to the South Fork Wind Farm project, [CCOM believes](#) that a rigorous and transparent permitting process must proceed, with extensive ongoing monitoring to ensure we thoroughly understand and address any impacts on our marine and coastal environments.



IN YOUR WORDS... WHAT MONTAUK MEANS TO YOU

To celebrate CCOM's 50th year, we are reaching out to our membership to tell us, in their own words, what Montauk means to them. To kick off this series, we are featuring Heather D'Agostino, a Montauk resident, teacher, parent and CCOM Board and Outreach Committee member. [CLICK HERE](#) to view her video and inspiring message!

STUDENTS GIVING BACK TO MONTAUK

EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

Even though we had to officially cancel our annual Great Montauk Cleanup last month, that didn't stop Camille (*bottom, left*) and her dad from taking on our "Earth Day Challenge" - look at all the trash they found! Last summer Camille interned with us by creating and organizing her own Teen Beach Cleanup. We're hoping she'll have the chance to organize another one this year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Does your student have community service hours to fulfill? CCOM can help! By following just a few guidelines, students can independently conduct their own cleanups and CCOM will sign off on their hours. For example, last summer Tabatha (*bottom, right*) earned 30 volunteer hours independently by conducting her own beach cleanups. She saved all the trash and created a fantastic time lapse video of her impressive haul. [Check it out HERE!](#)

Interested? Contact us at Info@PreserveMontauk.org for more information.



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