



Dear Danielle,

Welcome to CCOM's October newsletter!

With Election Day right around the corner, I want to first urge everyone to vote. On the back of your ballot, there is an important environmental proposition, which we discuss in this month's newsletter. Whether you're voting early, by mail, or on November 3rd, take the time to make informed and educated decisions.

Each of our actions and voices can collectively make a difference, and that is especially clear this year as we continue to reflect on our 50th anniversary. We celebrate previous successes, like the creation of the Community Preservation Fund and saving open spaces. We also look to past events, such as Superstorm Sandy, as we continue to work towards making our community more resilient for the future.



Click my photo for this month's newsletter greeting; and please continue to stay healthy and well, practicing responsible social distancing protocols, as you enjoy the gorgeous fall weather.

With thanks,

Laura Tooman

President

CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

SUPERSTORM SANDY, 8 YEARS LATER **MONTAUK'S COASTAL FUTURE NEEDS YOUR VOICE**

Following the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy here in Montauk, since October 2012 CCOM has been leading the charge to help develop sustainable coastal resiliency planning. This includes facilitating NYS funding for scientific coastal assessment in Montauk and participation with key experts and East Hampton Town in the Coastal Adaptation and Resiliency Planning (CARP) committee working to establish long range coastal options for Montauk.

These options were outlined in a public meeting in June 2020; the slides can be viewed [HERE](#), or you can watch the entire recorded meeting [HERE](#).

!! MEMBERSHIP CALL TO ACTION !!

Now is your opportunity to participate again and have your voice heard by taking the **Montauk CARP Survey** [HERE](#).

Your opinion on the possible solutions for the five coastal areas in Montauk is incredibly important, and **we encourage all our members and supporters to participate in this survey.**



NOVEMBER ELECTION **ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT**

Whether you're voting early or on Election Day or right now by absentee, it is important to understand the Suffolk county ballot before you cast your vote.

Proposal Two on the ballot, if approved, would allow funds to be taken from the County's sewer stabilization fund, a fund created to help offset the costs in sewer or potentially sewer areas and minimize increases in sewer fees. These funds, originally meant to help protect water quality, would be transferred to the general fund to help offset anticipated budget shortfalls.

As we embark on planning for new innovative wastewater management options for downtown Montauk, including sewerage, this could impact potential funding.

Suffolk County has been a leader in environmental protection and innovative water quality initiatives. A move like this could not only be harmful to the environmental health of Suffolk County, but also to public and economic health.

CCOM MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

SAVING OUR WATERS FROM HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Worried about the toxic effect that harmful algae blooms can have in our local Montauk waters?

Please join us next month on Thursday November 12th at 4pm to hear from CCOM's water quality testing team and Dr. Chris Gobler of the Gobler Laboratory at Stony Brook Southampton, a world leader in the understanding and testing of harmful algae blooms.

These algae have a myriad of negative effects: fish kills, low-oxygen "dead zones," and respiratory and intestinal illness in humans and animals, and the Gobler lab tests CCOM's Fort Pond and Big Reed Pond samples for the presence of HABs.



November 12th at 4pm-5pm

Toxic Algae in Our Ponds | Dr. Chris Gobler | Stony Brook Southampton

Click the Zoom link at the above time to join the Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88405819797>

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch our recorded October Webinar.

Edwina von Gal of The Perfect Earth Project discussed the detrimental effects of using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer on your lawns, the importance of creating living landscapes, and simple Fall tips that can save you money as you plan for the spring.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

December:

Sea Level Rise and the Future of Our Beaches | TBD

Details and Zoom meeting links will be posted to our website's [Events & Activities](#) page, and announced in upcoming newsletters.

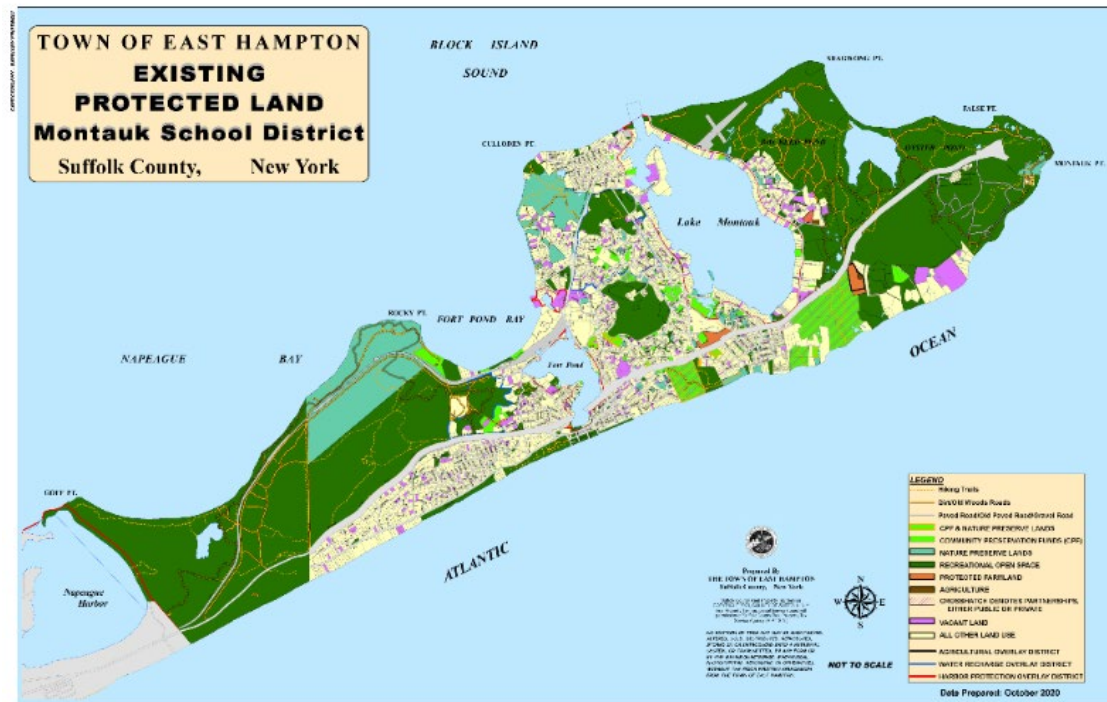
WIND FARM MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED FIVE STATE AGENCIES SIGN PROPOSAL

CCOM is encouraged by another major step in advancing the South Fork Wind Farm; five New York State agencies have signed a proposal for the landing of an undersea cable, joining other signatories including CCOM. Most noteworthy of the agencies is the Department of Environmental Conservation, which also issued an important statement of support.

Full coverage can be found in *Newsday* [HERE](#) and *The East Hampton Star* [HERE](#).

LOVE MONTAUK? BECOME A CCOM MEMBER!

LAND PRESERVATION REMAINS A PRIORITY ENDURING BENEFITS FOR MONTAUK



Since 2000, over 500 acres of woodlands, wetlands and beaches have been preserved as open space in Montauk through the East Hampton Town Community Preservation Fund (CPF). CCOM fought hard for the creation of the CPF and continues to be a strong advocate in the purchase of Montauk’s land parcels for the environment and our community, the benefits of which are unparalleled:

- * The trees and natural vegetation on preserved land help to remove air pollutants and serve as carbon sequestrers – more trees help clean the air and fight climate change.
- * Undeveloped land helps to protect and improve water quality – fewer septic

systems and cesspools in the ground is an obvious plus but additionally, undisturbed wetlands naturally filter out pollutants and excess nutrients, help to recharge our water supply, and offer storm and flood mitigation.

* Habitat fragmentation is a major problem for local wildlife, and open spaces help these species and the greater ecosystem flourish.

* Equal access to outdoor recreation spaces is important for the physical and mental health of all of us but connecting with nature is also essential to inspiring our children to become the next generation of conservation leaders.

For more information on the CPF or the land preservation process, please visit the Town's Department of Land Acquisition and Management [HERE](#).

Wondering how many acres of open space CCOM has preserved since 1970? Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

CCOM HISTORY SNAPSHOT

SHADMOOR STATE PARK + CAROL MORRISON PARK



October is a great month to get outside and safely enjoy Montauk's beautiful natural beauty. And this October, while CCOM is celebrating its 50th anniversary, we are reminded of some of our past October efforts which have forever changed the Montauk landscape for the better.

In October 2000, after many years of dedicated advocacy led by CCOM and others, Montauk's 99 acre Shadmoor State Park was created, ensuring the perpetual protection of and public access to this beautiful, unique place. Check out the photos from our archive – a 1999 protest advocating to "SAVE SHADMOOR" led by Bill Akin, who remains active on our Board.

And then, ten years later in 2010, CCOM, Third House Nature Center and local citizens challenged the public sale of Montauk's Fort Pond House in NYS Supreme Court in what became a successful effort to save Fort Pond House for the community. With funding provided by the Town of East Hampton, community contributions and CCOM volunteers, the 4-acre property was renovated and opened to the public in 2016 and named Carol Morrison Park in honor of our first president. This is now a delightful peaceful public space on the shore of Fort Pond that can be used and appreciated by all.

CCOM encourages everyone to get out there safely and visit [Shadmoor State](#)

[Park](#) and [Carol Morrison Park](#) this October and remember those who worked tirelessly to protect them!

SUPPORT OUR WORK & DONATE TODAY!

CCOM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization. Thanks to donors like you, we have been protecting our unique environment since 1970. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.



Address postal inquiries to:
Concerned Citizens of Montauk, Inc.
6 S. Elmwood Ave.
Montauk, NY 11954