



Welcome to CCOM's November newsletter!

This November, more than ever, we must celebrate all the things for which we are thankful.

I am thankful for our wonderful staff, board of directors, members, and the Montauk community for their unwavering support during this challenging year. Despite roadblocks, delays and setbacks, our collective love of and commitment to Montauk has yielded some incredible progress. Projects, years in the making, are coming to fruition and I couldn't be more excited for what's to come! To hear me speak on some of these projects, please listen to my testimony at last week's Town Board Meeting by clicking [HERE](#).

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

With thanks,

Laura Tooman

President

ENVIRONMENTAL MILESTONE FOR DOWNTOWN MONTAUK

ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR TO PLAN CENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SYSTEM



Numerous properties in the Downtown area of Montauk have antiquated low-to-non-functioning septic systems that pollute groundwater and surface waters like Fort Pond. Additionally, most of these commercial lots are small and do not have sufficient space to install individual nitrogen-reducing systems themselves.

With CCOM's active participation on the Town's Montauk Wastewater Committee, the Town Board has now hired an engineering contractor to develop plans for a centralized system for Downtown Montauk, as well as multiple decentralized systems. The contractor, H2M, has extensive experience with this type of work and has designed other wastewater districts and systems similar to what will be required in Montauk. It is hoped that H2M will be ready to begin by January 1st, 2021, and have a map and plan developed four months later.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details, as reported by *The East Hampton Star*.

CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

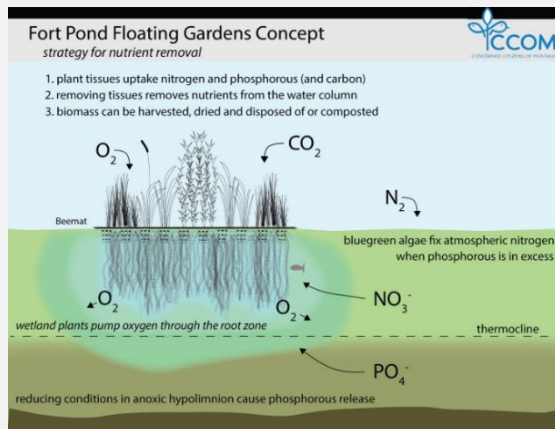
SAVING FORT POND CCOM TO INSTALL FLOATING WETLANDS, PLUS GOBLER FT POND REPORT

Following the \$25,211 CPF grant awarded to CCOM by East Hampton Town to install our innovative pilot Floating Wetlands Project in Fort Pond, we have now received NYS DEC approval and expect to begin this project in Spring 2021.

As a temporary seasonal installation of native vegetation designed to remove nitrogen and phosphorus, it is expected that these floating wetlands will mitigate some of the nutrient pollution in the Pond, thus reducing the extent

and severity of the harmful algal blooms which have plagued the Pond for the last few years. This mitigation pilot project will work in tandem with our other efforts aimed at reducing pollutant loadings in Fort Pond, including septic replacements and open space preservation.

CCOM just completed the third season in partnership with the Gobler Laboratory at Stony Brook Southampton to monitor Fort Pond and Big Reed Pond for toxic blue-green algae. In our recent webinar earlier this month, Dr. Chris Gobler discussed the results of our sampling in an engaging presentation about the risks and causes of these harmful algal blooms and, more importantly, what we can all do to help limit them. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch our recorded November Webinar with Dr. Gobler.



SUPPORT OUR WORK & DONATE TODAY!

PROGRESS IN LAKE MONTAUK

WATER QUALITY REMEDIATION WORK ABOUT TO BEGIN

Since 2017 CCOM has played an active role on the East Hampton Town CPF Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee, helping to select contractors and allocate funds for key water quality projects. That work has resulted in recent Town Board approval of the Committee's latest recommendations for Lake Montauk:

1) A new pump out boat will be purchased for use by the East Hampton Trustees in Lake Montauk. In 2018, CCOM, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, undertook a two-year analysis of the various sources of nutrient and bacteria pollutants in Lake Montauk, a problem initially identified by CCOM's weekly bacteria sampling of the Lake. Preliminary results from that study (presented in our September webinar [HERE](#)), have identified the primary source of bacteria as human, likely attributed from vessel waste. A new pump out boat will increase service to the boating community in Lake Montauk and will help address this problem.

2) Contractors have been selected for [three stormwater remediation projects](#) that will be constructed at the Western side and South end of

Lake Montauk (permeable pavements and vegetated swales). These problem areas have been identified by CCOM's weekly bacteria sampling of Lake Montauk and now remediation is planned.

3) CPF funding has been allocated for installation of a new low-nitrogen commercial septic system at Crow's Nest at the South end of Lake Montauk.



These projects represent significant advances in improving water quality in the Lake.

GIVE A CCOM MEMBERSHIP AS A HOLIDAY GIFT

As we approach the holiday season and reflect on the past year, please consider purchasing a 2021 CCOM gift membership for a friend or loved one. It is **your continued support** that will help us continue our work in improving water quality, addressing coastal resiliency, and ensuring Montauk's environmental sustainability for years to come.



Please click [HERE](#) to gift a membership for the future of Montauk.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS PLANNING FOR URGENT ACTION NOW

Faced with the reality of climate change, the need for urgent action has never been more critical, and many efforts are underway locally to achieve our goal of receiving all our energy needs from renewable sources by 2030, as reported in the *East Hampton Star* article "[Urging Speed on Renewables.](#)"

CCOM Board Member Rich Silver, who sits on the East Hampton Town Energy Sustainability & Resiliency Committee and will be the advisory committee's liaison to the Montauk CAC, expects much progress in 2021 stating that "tremendous momentum is in place for advancing several meaningful initiatives to further reduce fossil fuel usage."

LEADERSHIP IN COASTAL RESILIENCY

THE FUTURE OF MONTAUK'S BEACHES

Since Superstorm Sandy in 2012, CCOM has been helping lead the scientific understanding of our local coastal dynamics and the impact of climate change sea level rise.

Much has been accomplished, including specific options for our Montauk beaches as outlined in the Montauk [Coastal Assessment and Resiliency Plan \(CARP\)](#), an improved scientific understanding of the coastal dynamics that affect our beaches, and ensuring sand replenishment of our beaches through local and federal initiatives such as the [Fire Island to Montauk Point \(FIMP\)](#) plan.



To help advance this work, we would like to invite you to attend our [Coastal Resiliency webinar](#) on Wednesday, December 16th from 4-5pm to hear from those who are shaping our coastal planning.

CCOM MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

DECEMBER 2020

Coastal Resiliency and the Future of Montauk's Beaches
Wednesday, December 16th | 4pm-5pm

Laura Tooman, CCOM President, Montauk Beach Preservation Committee chair, and CARP Committee member
Aram Terchunian, Environmental Consulting Engineer
Peter Van Scoyoc, East Hampton Town Supervisor

PLEASE REGISTER PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK [HERE](#)

LOVE MONTAUK? BECOME A CCOM MEMBER!

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.

