



Spring is such a wonderful time in Montauk. All around us nature is teeming with energy – the river herring and eels are starting to migrate back into our freshwater streams signaling the near arrival of osprey and striped bass - and CCOM is busy at work, too! Our team is deep in planning for the installation of our floating wetlands project in Fort Pond, and we are gearing up for the seasonal expansion of our water testing program from bi-monthly to weekly testing beginning in May.

More immediately, however, it has come to our attention that despite many years of planning, the **promised replenishment of Montauk's downtown beaches** as part of the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) plan will **potentially be delayed by two years**, leaving the downtown area unprotected.

We are encouraging our supporters to [sign our petition](#) requesting that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) ensure that our beaches are replenished in 2021 to protect our community.

Please stay tuned for important updates as we continue to draft letters and push for immediate action.

With thanks,

President

CALL TO ACTION

DOWNTOWN MONTAUK NEEDS SAND NOW



News that the promised replenishment of Montauk's downtown beaches as part of the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) plan will potentially be delayed by two years is unacceptable.

The recent construction proposal from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) would delay the promised pumping of 450,000 cubic yards of ocean dredged sand on 6,000 feet of Montauk's downtown beach, which was slated for late 2021, to 2023.

CCOM believes that ACOE should deliver *what* they promised *when* they promised it. Without this sand, which is part of a [long-term comprehensive plan](#) to protect the downtown area, Montauk remains extremely vulnerable. Therefore, we are encouraging our supporters to sign our petition requesting that the ACOE ensure that our beaches are replenished in 2021 to protect our community and environment from the impacts of climate change.

Click [HERE](#) to sign the petition.

COASTAL ASSESSMENT & RESILIENCY PLANNING

WORK CONTINUES FOR MONTAUK'S FUTURE

As part of the development of a long-term sustainable solution for Montauk's beaches, CCOM's leadership and participation in CARP continues.

Following the [East Hampton Town public Zoom meeting in June 2020](#), which discussed the existing and future vulnerabilities of four coastal areas in Montauk, our [December Coastal Resiliency Webinar](#) addressed the issues of beach nourishment, relocation, and long-term development with a panel of professionals responsible for shaping our future coastline, including Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc.



We continue to play an active role in furthering the understanding and public discussion of [coastal resiliency strategies and recommendations](#) for Montauk's future.

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS **MAJOR WIND FARM MILESTONE ACHIEVED**

CCOM continues to advocate for advancing efforts to reduce our region's reliance on fossil fuels and we are greatly encouraged by the most recent development in the South Fork Wind Farm (SFW) project.

Following a lengthy and rigorous review process in which CCOM participated, on March 18th the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) unanimously approved the SFW transmission cable landing. Click [HERE](#) for additional details, as covered by *The East Hampton Star*.

This represents a critical step forward in authorizing construction and operation of 15 wind turbines 35 miles off Montauk, which is expected to deliver 130 megawatts of electric power to 70,000 homes on the South Fork.

SFW continues to undergo a comprehensive environmental and legal approval process. Assuming all requirements are met, construction is scheduled to begin in early 2022 and will be operational by late 2023.

THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF SOLAR **SOLARIZE EAST HAMPTON PROGRAM**

East Hampton Town's [Energize East Hampton](#) program and [GreenLogic Energy](#) hosted an informational webinar on March 18th about making the switch to solar power.

Comprehensive in its scope, the "Solarize East Hampton" webinar included presentations, testimonials, and a Q&A discussing the many benefits of going solar, including the underappreciated economic benefits for residential and commercial property owners alike. Click [HERE](#) to watch the recorded webinar.



CCOM views increased local solar usage as another important tool for achieving our shared goal of receiving all our energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.

DOWNTOWN MONTAUK WASTEWATER **ENGINEERED PLAN COMING SOON**

The East Hampton Town Downtown Montauk Wastewater Committee is hard at work and now, with H2M officially on board to provide engineering consulting assistance, a map and plan for a downtown wastewater system is on the horizon. CCOM will continue to keep its members updated on the committee's work and progress.

For more information on the Town's Downtown Montauk Wastewater Plan, click [HERE](#).

SURVEY RESULTS

MEMBERS ENDORSE CCOM'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS



We are grateful to the more than 240 of our supporters who completed our online Member Survey last month, and happy to report that our 3 areas of environmental focus – Coastal Resiliency, Water Quality and Environmental Sustainability – each rated a mean score of more than 4 on an importance scale of 1 to 5.

To find out more about our work in these areas, click [HERE](#). Your feedback on how we are doing is essential and helps us in our commitment to preserving the environment and ecology of Montauk. We look forward to continuing that work with your support in 2021.

SIGNS OF SPRING

RIVER HERRING AND EEL MIGRATIONS

Every spring, migratory species such as American Eel and River Herring, or Alewives, travel from the ocean upriver to spawn (called "anadromous" like alewives) or grow up ("catadromous" like the eels) in the safer confines of freshwater. Often, however, these species –

considered crucial for thriving ecosystems – are restricted by dams or habitat loss.

Through regular participation in the Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP), CCOM has advocated for habitat restoration for these species in Montauk.

Progress is being made on improving fish access to Big Reed Pond, and thanks to our monitoring efforts finding evidence of alewives at the Stepping Stones culvert at the south end of Lake Montauk, that location is on a list of important future restoration projects.



The alewives have made their way into the warmer streams further west, as evidenced by this [recent video](#) at Woodhull Dam, and they are headed our way!

We can always use more eyes out on the rivers to help record when and where these fish are swimming. Please send an email to info@preservemontauk.org if you are interested in participating in the annual migratory fish surveys, or you can find all of the 2021 monitoring resources, including a training video, on the PEP website [HERE](#).

If you are on Facebook, you can join the [Long Island River Herring Survey](#) group to see updates, photos, and stories from the monitoring community. In the meantime, take a look at our [video of baby eels](#) at the Big Reed Pond culvert from last April – they're tiny but very cute!

EARTH DAY 4.22.21
HELP US KEEP MONTAUK MONTAUK



For the continued safety of our community, we are forgoing our traditional Earth Day Cleanup again this year. However, we are encouraging everyone to grab a garbage bag and get outside to their favorite beach or park!

Cleaning up litter is an important activity to reducing microplastics and other threats to wildlife in our environment.

Share your photos of your cleanup with us! Post them and tag us on:

[Facebook](#) (@concernedcitizensofmontauk)
[Instagram](#) (@preservemontauk) with #earthday2021
or [Email](mailto:info@preservemontauk.org) us (info@preservemontauk.org)

ON THIS DAY
MARCH 25, 2004



CCOM was part of a coalition that organized against allowing high-speed ferries in Fort Pond Bay because of concerns about negative environmental impacts to the water body and increased road traffic. The "Stop the Ferry" campaign resulted in a moratorium that was passed to prevent high-speed ferries from landing on the East End.

On March 25, 2004 CCOM and its members participated at a public hearing in Southold in what became the final successful effort to declare Fort Pond Bay free from such vessels. As our former board member, Richard Kahn, stated at the time: "A fast ferry from Connecticut to Montauk would have been the end of Montauk as we know it."

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION!](#)

CCOM NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2021

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.

