

Kay Tyler

From: Fred Thiele <thielef@nyassembly.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Kay Tyler
Cc: KBurke-Gonzalez@ehamptonny.gov; CBrennan@EHamptonNY.Gov; palumbo@nysenate.gov; Ann Welker; Thalia Olaya; Stevens Martinez; Cate Rogers; tflight@ehamptonny.gov; David Lys; ICalder-Piedmonte@EHamptonNY.Gov; david@freudenthal.net
Subject: RE: CCOM's DEC response to Ditch Plains

Dear Ms. Tyler:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding recent storm damage at Ditch Plains and concerns raised by CCOM.

I appreciate your dedication to addressing the coastal resiliency needs of Montauk, and I am actively engaged with both the Town of East Hampton and NYSDEC regarding this matter. Your suggestions have been noted, and I will continue to advocate for the Town as they develop a plan to address the immediate and short-term needs at Ditch Plains.

If you have any further information or updates, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your commitment to the betterment of Montauk, and I look forward to our continued work together.

Regards,
Assemblyman Thiele

FWT/DM

From: Kay Tyler <ktyler@preservemontauk.org>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 11:29 AM
To: Fred Thiele <thielef@nyassembly.gov>
Cc: KBurke-Gonzalez@ehamptonny.gov; CBrennan@EHamptonNY.Gov; palumbo@nysenate.gov; Ann Welker <ann.welker@suffolkcountyny.gov>; Thalia Olaya <Thalia.Olaya@exec.ny.gov>; Stevens Martinez <stevens.martinez@exec.ny.gov>; Cate Rogers <CRogers@EHamptonNY.Gov>; tflight@ehamptonny.gov; David Lys <DLys@EHamptonNY.Gov>; ICalder-Piedmonte@EHamptonNY.Gov; david@freudenthal.net
Subject: CCOM's DEC response to Ditch Plains

Dear Assemblyman Thiele,

On behalf of Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) thank you for your work to address the recent tremendous storm damage to our beaches; we are most grateful that you have prioritized this issue.

We are in receipt of DEC Commissioner Seggos's February 9 letter in response to your request of urgent support for Ditch Plains. As an organization with more than 3,200 members and supporters we have been committed to addressing Montauk coastal resiliency needs since Super Storm Sandy and are grateful for your support as indicated in our February 7 letter to Gov Hochul (see below).

While the Commissioner's letter recognizes the recent storm damage at Ditch Plains, it also highlights that Ditch Plains does not qualify for inclusion in the current USACE FIMP project. This is disappointing and perhaps suggests their prior BCR (Benefit Cost Ratio) threshold for Ditch Plains was not met, we would urge a reconsideration by USACE of this in light of the economic value of this beach to our community.

In the interim, and as East Hampton Town works to produce a plan to address the immediate and short-term needs at Ditch Plains, we would urge the following actions:

- funding be provided in through the State Environmental Protection Fund or another State source to meet the urgent need for the remediation and repair of the Ditch Plains beach; and
- the proposed DEC Ditch Plains coordination meeting referenced by Commissioner Seggos with federal , state, and county partners and representatives of the town of East Hampton be accelerated and we stand ready to assist and participate in this meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Yours truly,

KAY TYLER

Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Executive Director
M: 917.922.8656
ktyler@PreserveMontauk.org
www.PreserveMontauk.org

From: Kay Tyler
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:39 AM
To: thalia.olaya@exec.ny.gov; stevens.martinez@exec.ny.gov
Cc: KBurke-Gonzalez@ehamptonny.gov; david@freudenthal.net
Subject: CCOM Letter of Support for Ditch Plains, Montauk

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM), the oldest and leading, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental advocacy group in Montauk, I am writing to reinforce the urgent appeal from the Town of East Hampton (TOEH) and New York State officials for help at Ditch Plains, Montauk.

Ditch Plains beach, one of the east coast’s most iconic destinations and a key engine of economic activity in Montauk, has been severely compromised by consecutive storms over the past few months, specifically from storm events on December 18, 2023, January 9–10, 2024, and January 12, 2024. Right now, these areas are at grave risk of catastrophic harm from future storms, and we are only halfway through the current winter season.

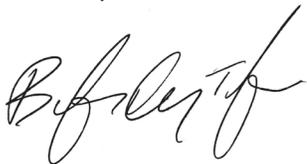
Since 1971, CCOM’s mission has been to preserve and protect the unique environment and ecology of Montauk and our more than 3,200 members and supporters rely on us to do so. We express this concern on behalf of our community as a matter of utmost public safety requiring the remediation and repair of the Ditch Plains beach and dune.

We are grateful for your inclusion of downtown Montauk as a priority in your announcement of emergency funding in response to the devastation wrought by this winter's storms on Long Island and urge that you include Ditch Plains in the allocation of those funds. Our representatives at the local and state level have made the case to you both why this help is urgent, as delineated by East Hampton Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez in her letter to Assemblyman Fred Thiele dated January 26, and the letter from Assemblyman Thiele and State Senator Anthony Palumbo to your offices on February 5. Copies of both letters are attached for your reference.

We commend Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez for proactively evaluating the damage at Ditch Plains and working to produce a plan to address immediate and short-term needs at Ditch Plains, however, this will be an unexpected and substantial cost for them to undertake. We support the request for funding in the form of matching funds, from funds available from the State Environmental Protection Fund or another state funding source. Authority for state participation exists under current state law pursuant to Articles 54 and 58 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Because of the immediate danger presented by this situation, we request and appreciate the immediate attention of your administration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Tyler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" being more prominent.

KAY TYLER

Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Executive Director

cc: Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Supervisor Town of East Hampton
David Freudenthal, CCOM Chairman of the Board

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