



2017 Environmental Survey of East Hampton Town Board and Supervisor Candidates

2017 Green Guide Participating Members

CONTRIBUTORS

Accabonac Protection Committee

Amagansett Springs Aquifer
Protection

Concerned Citizens of Montauk

International Dark Sky Association
– New York Chapter

Long Island, Businesses for
Responsible Energy (LIBFRE)

NYLCV Education Fund

Northwest Alliance

Renewable Energy Long Island

Quiet Skies Coalition

SUPPORTERS

Defend H₂O

Ditch Plains Association

Friends of Georgica Pond
Foundation

Group for the East End

Peconic Baykeeper

Perfect Earth Project

Surfrider Foundation: Eastern Long
Island Chapter

Third House Nature Center

OVERVIEW

As non-profit, nonpartisan environmental organizations concerned about the future of the East End, we have decided to once again become active in the upcoming election by raising awareness of the importance of these issues and will be collectively engaging the public in various ways.

The purpose of this activity is not to implicitly or explicitly support or oppose any candidate or political party, but to educate voters on local environmental issues and encourage them to be civically-active environmental advocates.

GUIDELINES

This questionnaire is designed to elicit your commitment to and ideas on addressing the important sustainability issues facing East Hampton.

Responses should be considered public. Complete, unedited responses will be reproduced and distributed publicly.

If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite.

For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, we will note as much in our public materials.

TIMELINE

Questionnaires are due by October 11, 2017

Completed questionnaires must be submitted via e-mail as Microsoft Word file or PDF to: Joshua Klainberg, NYLCVEF - jklainberg@nylcv.org

Questions or extension requests may be directed to: Laura Tooman, CCOM - LTooman@PreserveMontauk.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name:

Position Sought:

EXPERIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND RELATIONSHIPS

- 1) Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that would indicate your commitment to advancing an environmental agenda for East Hampton. These may be professional or personal.

I have a 30 year record of environmental activism as an attorney focused on assisting residents, neighborhoods and environmental organizations to oppose inappropriate over-development. Our work has included stopping two shopping centers in Bridgehampton (and creating two small parks and preserving a historic building there). We also opposed and stopped a large condo project in Sag Harbor. I assisted the Group for the East End in fighting for water quality protection at the Bridgehampton Sandland Mine and in opposing the Hills PDD project in East Quogue.

Our firm has helped residents create over 100 acres of open space in the Town of East Hampton, including Tony Duke's Boys Harbor property and Shadmoor State Park.

We have helped to protect the historic setting of the oldest existing house in Wainscot, and Sag Harbor's signature Gingerbread House. We have assisted residents to protect the small house character of Sag Harbor's historic African American neighborhoods.

I was the litigation attorney who challenged the Environmental Impact Statement used by a prior town board to deny the existence of airport noise and support applications for FAA funding. I have been an early advocate for local airport noise controls. Those controls should protect Montauk as well.

We have fought the construction of over-sized homes in the Village of

Southampton's historic districts. We have protected dunes, wetlands and other natural resources from similarly inappropriate houses in East Hampton, most recently opposing a house in Napeague that threatened the last existing dune protecting Shore Road from storm surge.

My commitment to environmental protection has been consistent and energetic for many years.

- 2) What do you believe is the role of town government regulation and enforcement in maintaining a natural, sustainable environment? What, if any, changes are the most important?

I believe in a consistent, predictable and neutral environmental review process. I believe we could revisit the issue of house size and make a greater effort to protect against "super-sized" houses and to better control size in relation to lot area.

I prefer administrative boards which follow procedures designed to minimize the relief from zoning. I also believe in the energetic use of SEQRA, the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act, to insure thorough environmental review.

I believe in strict zoning enforcement. However, I would also encourage citizen outreach and cooperation. I prefer that the Town first engage with residents on zoning violations to obtain voluntary compliance if possible.

- 3) What resources, experts or opinions will you consult when making decisions that affect East Hampton Town's environmental resources?

I am experienced in all aspects of environmental review and totally familiar with our administrative boards. I have worked with experts from a variety of fields, including engineers, architectural historians, botanists, hydro-geologists, coastal erosion and water quality experts, and the like. I welcome the assistance of expert opinion, as I believe in fact-based decision making. I firmly support open, transparent and fair environmental review which includes the maximum practical public participation.



ISSUE QUESTIONS

The 2017 East Hampton Green Guide details opportunities and approaches to persistent environmental sustainability challenges facing the town. The following subjects come straight from the agenda where action items of critical importance to the environmental community can be found.

- 4) On Long Island, our economic prosperity, public health and safety, and quality of life rely upon a clean and sustainable supply of drinking water. Similarly, as an island blessed with bays, harbors, and beaches on every shore, the quality of our surface waters defines our outdoor experience. The consequences of over-development on a small ecosystem have been devastating to not only our groundwater but also our surface waters.

What actions will you take to protect groundwater and surface water?

I have fought inappropriate projects in water sensitive areas. Recently, I represented Cedar Street residents opposing a bus yard in a residential neighborhood which threatened nearby public water supply wells.

I also fought an inappropriate 200 seat restaurant in special groundwater protection area, in which contamination was recently discovered.

I am very familiar with Water Recharge and Harbor Protection overlay requirements. I also know the restrictions contained in the Special Groundwater Protection Area guidelines, issued by Suffolk County.

I support the Town's new plan to create incentives to install new nitrogen reducing septics. I also like its varied approach using bio-swales, eel grass planting, use of beneficial algae to capture nitrates, aquaculture projects and semi-permeable reactive barriers.

We also have to be aware that atmospheric nitrogen contributes to water problems, and I support the change to solar, the use of batteries and smart thermostats in homes, and wind power (thoroughly reviewed to insure protection of fishing areas and the livelihood of fishermen).

I would continue to oppose over-development and out-of-scale houses.

- 5) Beaches, water-based tourism and the most productive fishing port in New York State anchor East Hampton's economy. Erosion, sea level rise, and more frequent catastrophic storms are reshaping East Hampton. A sustainable, thriving community requires protecting natural buffers such as beaches, bluffs and wetlands and upgrading and adapting our infrastructure.

What actions will you take to achieve coastal adaptation and resiliency planning?

I support the Town's forward-looking study of Coastal Assessment and Resiliency Planning. Also, the related Hamlet Center plan (particularly in Montauk) which is beginning to address adjustment of developed areas to accommodate sea level rise.

I favor moving to renewable energy on all fronts, both locally and statewide with larger projects such as wind power PROVIDED environmental review addresses impacts to fishing stocks and livelihoods.

I would support zoning measures to create incentives to adjust locations to adapt to sea level rise.

I would like to take local steps to "shave the peak" use of energy, so that we can avoid the use of polluting generators and extensive large scale transmission lines. I would like to see the town enter renewable energy markets.

I oppose shore hardening and believe that beaches are a dynamic feature that must be permitted to function naturally.

- 6) Wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, dunes, fresh water ponds, kettle holes, creeks, bays, and beaches abound in East Hampton, but are becoming increasingly rare nationwide. These ecosystems are not only a major draw for tourism and the area's economy, but are also valuable and vulnerable habitats that provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a wide array of creatures. Because of new development, the incursion of invasive species, the use of chemicals for fertilizers, pest and weed control, and increasing stresses of extreme weather and rising water levels, our native flora and fauna are stressed and in decline.

What actions will you take to address habitat stewardship?

I would strictly enforce all existing restrictions on sensitive natural features. I generally do not favor the use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and the like. At home, I do not apply anything to maintain a lawn, as I live in the woods and prefer to see moss and clover. I believe in natural solutions which are attentive to the fact that all chemicals applied end up in our drinking water supply. I would continue be a vigilant defender of our aquifers.

I'd like to see us assist in any way possible to maintain and encourage populations of birds, honey bees, all wildlife (I'd like to see more foxes). I want to use a variety of measures to eliminate nitrate and phosphorus impacts to water bodies.

I'd like to make a serious effort to slow and stop the degradation of our local environment on land and water.

- 7) The State of New York has recognized the urgent need for action to mitigate climate change by dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Additionally, the state has directed electric utilities in the state to provide at least 50% of its electricity supply from renewable energy sources. In recognition of these mandates, the Town of East Hampton, in 2014, adopted a goal to meet 100% of community-wide electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 and further set a goal to meet the equivalent energy consumption in all sectors (electric, heat, transportation) 100% from renewable sources by the year 2030. At the same time, our grid is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and from time to time the siting decisions for the generation of power and its distribution have been incompatible with the government's mission to protect public health and safety.

What actions will you take to create a 21st century sustainable energy policy and grid?

As described above, I believe in a variety of approaches. Wind is appealing in the long run, provided that we determine from an objective environmental review that it will not damage sea beds, fishing stocks, and the livelihood of fishermen.

I would like to see local initiatives on solar, smart thermostats, home batteries, energy audits, stricter building standards (Just enacted in East Hampton), electric cars and any other viable technology to begin the transformation incrementally on the local level.

- 8) The Town enacted an outdoor lighting ordinance in 1984 in order to preserve the nocturnal environment, community character, and quality of life from the effects of misdirected, excessive, unnecessary and inefficient outdoor lighting. There have been updates to the code but more are needed. Also the code needs to be fully enforced for new and existing installations and the municipality itself needs to conform to the standards set by the code.

What actions will you take to improve outdoor lighting policies to make our skies darker?

I would do anything possible to implement Dark Skies requirements, which also will significantly help with carbon footprint reduction. I have used Dark Sky recommendations in planning board applications, and have long admired Susan Harder's constructive obsession with darkening sky glow.

I might add that I would do anything I could to make East Hampton slower, calmer and quieter and eliminating sky glow fits within those goals.

- 9) In order to ensure the peaceful enjoyment of East End residents' homes and properties; and the reduction or elimination of harmful noise and avgas emissions on protected wildlife and their habitat, further action is needed.

What actions will you take to reduce aircraft noise which will result in quieter skies?

I am one of the early advocates of local airport noise control. I would pursue a Part 161 study, with some doubts about the cooperation of the FAA. I would also use litigation, if necessary. I would explore legislative action to restore our rights to manage our own airport.

I would maintain safety and undertake required airport maintenance. But I would not spend on any construction that could possibly generate more traffic. I would also oppose large scale spending that threatened the airport's self sufficiency, as it could be misused as a rationale to take FAA funds. I will never support the use of FA funding.