



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: Manny Vilar

Position Sought: Supervisor

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 33year career as the First Sergeant in the NYS Park Police and the Founding President of the Police Benevolent Association of NYS which represents the State Park Police, State Environmental Conservation Police and the State Forest Rangers. In Short, a major component of my professional career has been rooted in Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection.

- 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?

In my view as a career law enforcement officer in the environmental field the role town government has is bifurcated. Public safety is the most important role town government must address. The biggest mistake elected official make is a failure to realize environmental protection is equally as important to society as is penal law and vehicle and traffic law crimes. Equally important is the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands and waterways. Protections of these areas helps diminish pollution as well as provides a sustainable refuge for wildlife. Where in my view EHT has failed is despite an aggressive land preservation policy they have been poor stewards of the land and waterways from the enforcement protection

component. I had routinely had to direct my Police Officers to pick up the slack when EHT failed to field enforcement staff throughout the hamlet of Montauk.

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

Everyone that has a stake in environmental issues should be consulted. Due to my extensive experience and long career in NYS government, I understand that NYS through DEC and other state agencies can provide a host of services and expertise. The revetment beach project which was in direct opposition to the NYS Coastal Management Plan is a classic example of a failure of Town Government to work with NYS.

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 ecological 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?

EHT government has failed to aggressively seek viable septic alternatives. Take down Montauk as an example. In 2011 and 2015, each of campaigns, septic was a major issue. To this day despite promises Montauk Village is no closer to have a septic sewage system. In another example, there has been a federal fund since the 1990s that could have assisted EHT with septic improvement, but to date, EHT has only made an advance after the legislation to enable the use of the CPF. Further during explosive growth as recently as the past 17 years new construction with old septic technology was allowed. EHT must in my view seek to promote sewage systems and replacement of septic systems that no longer meet acceptable standards. EHT should also seek a policy that utilizes the 1 billion dollar federal funds.

- 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?

The greatest least environmentally damaging to our beaches is an aggressive sand pump and replenishment policy similar to what NYS Parks has in place at Jones Beach, Robert Moses, Gilgo state Parks and the Ocean Parkway. New construction should be heavily reviewed to endure resiliency. Lastly, EHT should operate within the NYS Coastal Management Plan.

- 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?

Very similar to my answer to question 2 I will increase resources toward the environment enforcement divisions in EHT. There also must be a renewed interest in the comprehensive review of the EHT code to ensure the EHT code is update and addresses environmental issues as they change throughout the years.

- 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?

Underground transmission line and microgeneration technology. Both provide the greats resiliency and are the most environmentally friendly

- 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?

Ensure that EHT Town planners and enforcement officers fully understand the town code. Additionally, a review of the EHT code to ensure that time code has

kept up with the current changes in technology. A 1984 law is a long time without a review.

- 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?

Transportation is a primary concern whether it is by automobile, train, bus, plane or helicopter. Technology improves at a breakneck pace, and EHT government should be aggressively seeking compliance of reasonable uses an upgrade in technology for users in each discipline. I believe the time has come to create a region Transportation Authority with a charge to improve public transportation via air, road, and rail. EHT government must engage our partners on the State and Federal level to seek solutions. East Hampton has whether like it or not becomes a world class attraction to many from all walks of life and incomes and as we should not be afraid to tap into state and federal resources that may be available.