

WAINSCOTT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



April 12, 2021

East Hampton Town Board
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

To the Town Board:

At the April 3, 2021 meeting of the Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC), the subject of water quality was addressed. Residents of Wainscott are worried about algal blooms in Wainscott Pond; they have concerns about contaminants in soil and groundwater in the area around East Hampton Airport; they have questions about water usage and safety.

Research conducted by Dr. Christopher Gobler reveals that cyanobacterial contamination in Wainscott Pond “in 2020 was three times the average total cyanobacterial contamination concentration level in 2017 and 2018.” In March, 2020, Dr. Gobler spoke before the WCAC. He explained the sources the algal blooms and a two-pronged approach to addressing this problem: dredging (to remove pond sediments) and the installation of permeable reactive barriers (to remove nitrogen from groundwater flowing into the pond). **The WCAC strongly encourages the Town Board to support this initiative and the funding of necessary studies to arrive at remediation solutions. And, to do so quickly given the lead time necessary to resolve.**

Regarding the presence of PFOS and PFOA at East Hampton Airport, the WCAC understands and appreciates the steps the Town Board has taken to respond and work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) to assure the wellbeing of its constituents. The committee also is aware that the speed with which remediation will be undertaken is largely in the hands of the DEC.

Nevertheless, Wainscott residents remain concerned about construction for the South Fork Wind (SFW) cable taking place so near a Superfund site and throughout the Hamlet where contamination has been detected. **The WCAC asks the Town Board to advocate for Wainscott in its dealings with the DEC and redouble its efforts to continue to share all relevant information, including the Citizen Participation Plan and Remedial Investigation Work Plan in a clear and timely fashion. In addition, the committee urges the Board to alert Wainscott**

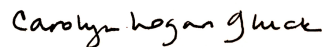
residents to all SFW soil and water test results as well as SFW construction plans related to the handling of contaminated soils and water once they are available. Fundamentally, it is the position of the WCAC that any excavation work along the cable path adhere to a documented environmental process.

Finally, please be aware that residents continue to have questions regarding water usage and safety: Are contaminants being introduced to gardens and crops through the use of untreated groundwater for irrigation? Is there a danger of using well water to bathe or shower, in birdbaths or for drinking water? Is there a Town-wide or DEC requirement that wells be totally de-commissioned once a residence is connected to SCWA water? Is fire-fighting foam still present on the airport property or town-owned property along Industrial Road?

Preservation of surface and groundwater quality is not just a Wainscott issue but a town-, even world-, wide issue and the WCAC applauds the many steps the Town Board has already taken to attend to this precious resource.

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of Wainscott's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Logan Gluck".

Carolyn Logan Gluck
Chair, Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee