I was disappointed to learn of, but not entirely surprised by, the efforts of Quogue Village Mayor Peter Sartorius to quash the legislation that would reaffirm the regulatory authority of the Southampton Town Trustees on ocean beaches [“Mayor Recruiting Allies For Battle,” May 19].

It’s unfortunate that the mayor doesn’t appreciate the essence of the Trustees’ purpose: defending the public’s unimpeded use of the shoreline. The Trustees’ longstanding opposition to shore-hardening structures is in obvious conflict with some private and business interests. Thus the effort to put a stake in the heart of Trustee jurisdiction.

Given the reality of rising seas, coastal policies that ensure beach sustainability must rule supreme. The Trustees have served the public interest well in this regard, and it’s my hope that their authority will be restored.

In addition, it’s time for the State Department of Environmental Conservation to rescind the authority delegated to Quogue Village and Southampton Village to oversee the Coastal Erosion Hazard Act. A sustainable coastal zone isn’t realized through a piecemeal approach, and protective policies shouldn’t be discretionary. State coastal policies are well-founded and crystal clear. So, do your job, DEC.

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Sag Harbor

*Mr. McAllister is founder and president of DefendH20—Ed.*