Seize The Opportunity

I read with interest the story on East Hampton Town’s purchase of waterfront properties that include dwellings, and concerns about overpaying [“Critical Purchase Or Bailout?” East Hampton Press, November 30]. While some consider buying developed properties with Community Preservation Fund revenues not fiscally prudent, I believe the long-term environmental benefits are substantive and applaud the Town Board and CPF Department for being forward thinking and responsive to a changing coastal environment. Waterfront acquisitions in this form are important resource management actions in light of the physical (and financial) implications from sea level rise and seawater inundation. Structures in the expanding flood zone are removed, sources of nitrogen pollution (sewage) are eliminated, and critically important natural buffers can be restored. All while enhancing public access and recreational use of fronting waterbodies. I urge the town to continue seizing the opportunities to extinguish waterfront development where appropriate—and remind officials that the full benefits will not be realized until structures are removed and the parcel can revert to natural buffer.

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