

April 23, 2018

Dear Chairman Finnerty and Members of the Town Planning Board,

I recently learned that the Village of Sag Harbor has a proposal before your board to create a paved municipal impound area on a parcel owned by the village that is located in the Long Pond Greenbelt. Although the parcel has been impacted by municipal usage and is partially cleared, it is situated in the town's CR-200 Zoning district and in the Aquifer Protection Overlay district, two of the most restrictive districts in the town's zoning code. The site also includes a freshwater wetland that is a breeding area for the NYS endangered tiger salamander.

The Long Pond Greenbelt is an ecologically unique area that has been the target of preservation and restoration efforts by the Town, County, Nature Conservancy, Group for the East End, South Fork Natural History Society, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt and the Southampton Trails Preservation Society. The proposal is inappropriate for this location.

We urge the town to work with the village, and the other organizations that have been involved in creating and managing the greenbelt, to find a more appropriate location for this project, to develop a restoration plan for this parcel, and formally include this area in the Long Pond Greenbelt with the "nature preserve" designation it deserves.

Sincerely,
Mike Bottini

Cc: Sag Harbor Village