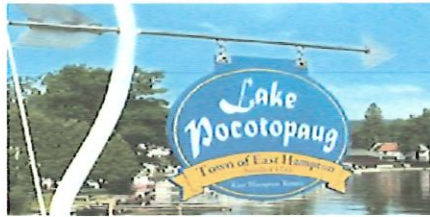


5/10/24



Save Lake Pocotopaug

Our collective group called “Save Lake Pocotopaug” (SLP) represents more than 800 households within the Lake Pocotopaug watershed. Our mission is advocating for the short and long-term health of the lake. We present the following petition for your consideration:

Specifically we request:

A **Public Hearing** with the Town of East Hampton to review, discuss, and outline a plan of action for immediate implementation to address the following actions:

1. Rigorous enforcement of current and future East Hampton, State and Federal regulations. NO Exceptions.
2. Hold builders and contractors accountable for damages/corrective actions of the violation of the regulations.
3. Actions to address the runoff from Edgewater project (phase 1 and 2)
4. Actions to address violations of Town/State/Federal regulations at the Lakewood Rd. development
5. Investigate and close the loopholes that provided opportunity for violations to occur.
6. Clarify the authority granted by the town and state to P&Z and IWWA

Our key concerns:

30 years ago the Lake Vista project commenced putting runoff in our lake and no one was held accountable. Five years ago the Town Hall project accelerated the runoff with no accountability, and now the Edgewater project(s) continues this tradition of runoff with damage to our lake without accountability. The proposed development on Lakewood Rd. began with illegal land clearing without a permit, and runoff into the lake commenced. Numerous and detailed regulations exist at both the town and state level to address the issues at both Edgewater and Lakewood Road. The current regulations, while not perfect, are the regulations and therefore must be adhered to by everyone, no exceptions. Enforcement has been described by a TC member as “passive” and that is a bad policy for our town. A weak enforcement policy throws the doors open for rampant and flagrant disregard for the lake, town, residents, and environment. As a result, the contractors will continue to avoid accountability with a smile, knowing full well there is no consequence for their actions.

Action Plans: Given the urgency of the situation, we will pursue our agenda and interests with all current organizations, impacting the Lake including: the Town Council, Town Boards, Commissions, and political parties. Through the local ballot/election process we will support candidates who share our desire for preservation of Lake Pocotopaug as a prime recreational and economic resource for East Hampton’s current and future generations.

It is acknowledged that current Town and State regulations require this petition to be submitted within 14 days of an application. However, the regulations also provide the Town officials the option to hold a meeting if “*the agency finds that a public hearing regarding such application would be in the public interest.*” This regulation does not have a time limit expressly stated, so this duly signed petition of 30 residents (18 years or older) can still provide the impetus to do the right thing “*in the public interest.*”. If this petition is improperly prepared or presented, please advise and a properly prepared petition will be re-submitted for your consideration.

We strongly urge the East Hampton Town officials to provide the opportunity of a public hearing on the above issues.

Save Lake Pocotopaug

5/9/24 The people listed below in this petition support, endorse and request action on the above items.

	Printed Name	Signature	Email address:
1	Chris Austermann	<i>Chris Austermann</i>	chrisaustermann@gmail.com
2	Cynthia Martin	<i>Cynthia Martin</i>	CK2martin@comcast.net
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4	Rick Mendes	<i>Rick Mendes</i>	mendesr@comcast.net
5			
6	ROBERT YENKNER	<i>Robert Yenken</i>	ryenken4@comcast.net
7	OP BECKER	<i>OP Becker</i>	OPBECKER@COMCAST.NET
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9	VIRGINIA YENKNER	<i>Virginia Yenken</i>	ginyey@comcast.net
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