



*PO Box 159, Sea Cliff, NY 11579 | 516.801.6792 | info@thecshh.org*

---

---

January 13, 2023

**President**

*Karen Papasergiou*

**Vice President**

*Kay Bromberg*

**Treasurer**

*Elizabeth Weinstein*

**Secretary**

*Lynda Schroeder*

**Board Members**

*Shalini Desai*

*Skip LeBlang*

*Beth LeBlang*

*Sebastian Li*

*Nino Luciano*

*Serge Papasergiou*

*Mark Sobel*

*Stephanie Sobel*

*Charles Weinstein*

Supervisor Saladino and Councilmembers of the Town of Oyster Bay  
54 Audrey Avenue  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

RE: Comments on the Town of Oyster Bay's Private Golf Course Planning Study and the proposal to up-zone golf courses

Dear Supervisor Saladino and Councilmembers of the Town of Oyster Bay:

The Coalition to Save Hempstead (CSHH) has worked for 36 years to improve conditions in the local environment. We have partnered with municipalities, agencies, and NGOs to attain significant improvements to water quality in Hempstead Harbor, thereby improving the quality of life for residents in harborside communities.

We appreciate this opportunity to share comments regarding the Town of Oyster Bay's Private Golf Course Planning Study, which recommends up-zoning of golf courses within the Town of Oyster Bay. We support this initiative as it will help maintain open space, protect groundwater and surface water resources, as well as provide habitat connectivity for wildlife.

Golf courses are among the last large tracts of land that can be protected from overdevelopment, so this initiative is very timely. As this study points out, increasing development demands are putting more stress on the local environment, particularly on water resources. Regarding our potable water supply, water districts often give the approval for new connections based on whether there is physical/engineering capacity to pump the water, not on consideration of whether the water supply is adequate or whether over-pumpage could result in saltwater intrusion or increased pollution risk to Long Island's sole-source aquifer. Extreme precautions must be observed to protect the entire region's water supply.

CSHH has commissioned a water-supply report entitled, "Water Supply Sustainability for Hempstead Harbor Communities" (see the attached PDF

*Visit [www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org](http://www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org) for information about our programs.*

document). This report has been thoroughly researched by Sarah Meyland, former Professor at NY Institute of Technology, who is a well-known expert on the status of Long Island's aquifer. The report investigates the potential impact on local water suppliers of the many multiunit development projects proposed or partially completed along the Hempstead Harbor shoreline. The report uses the 2016 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation directive for all water suppliers to reduce peak water demand by 15%. Most local water districts failed to even get close to achieving this reduction. In several instances, water use increased. The data collected for the analysis in the attached report covers three years, from 2018 to 2020, and therefore does not include the impact of many recently completed and now occupied multiunit developments or the hot, dry weather events over this past summer, which highlighted the fragility of our local water supply. Housing demands must be balanced with the availability and sustainability of our local water supply. Planning for future growth should be approached regionally in order to ensure all residents of the Town of Oyster Bay and throughout Long Island have access to clean and safe drinking water. At the same time, we also support:

- Integrated pest management and other environmentally friendly golf course maintenance practices, e.g., reduced nitrogen applications, to be encouraged on all golf courses;
- As with all large multiunit development projects, inclusion of a requirement to address affordable housing if cluster housing is proposed (as per the Long Island Workforce Housing Act).

We appreciate the Town of Oyster Bay's recognition of the importance of preserving open space as an effort to protect local water and other environmental resources and support the up-zoning of golf courses proposed in the town's Private Golf Club Planning Study.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lapinel McAllister  
Programs Director