

**Shelter Island Public Meeting  
Shelter Island Public Library  
Thursday May 31, 2018**

**Public Comments**

<b>Water Quality</b>
Online research indicates that permethrin is very toxic to reptiles, i.e. box turtles.
Consider sewage plant treatment and nitrates, and bacteria and loss of water to water table.
Shelter Island has a unique interest in preservation of the entire aquifer, not just the near shore areas. Does the new plan have any unique ???
How does/who should be the contractor for water quality evaluations? We are currently planning with USGS a 'baseline' contamination study with a goal of comparison 6 -10 years out to see if I/A septic use provides a measurable benefit.
Promote public awareness of groundwater protection by pressuring local government to require inspections of wells and septic systems when properties are transferred or for sale.
There is a need for focus on eel grass protection and improved water quality in West Neck Creek.

<b>Habitat</b>
I'd like to see more buffer zones on shorefront properties. The zones can consist of native grasses and forbs adapted to near-shore conditions. Because they're relatively low-growing, they won't interfere with water views. I also think education and outreach can take us so far. Amendments to the town codes could help.
No-take zones: breeding zones for clams and oysters. No-take zones should be established for a period of 10 years in order to build up breeding zones, for the replenishment of populations of shellfish.
Consider fresh water ponds hosting cyanobacteria and other harmful algal blooms.

<b>Outreach</b>
Educate individuals of the storm surge impact on potable water supply of homes near the shore.
Make the issues real by putting them in terms of economic impact of damage to the estuary.
Reach out more to laymen, fishermen, etc.
Include Shelter Island residents (including summer residents and visitors) in your future communications, plans, and events.
Local government involvement is critical. Homeowners should be advised what they can do help on a regular basis. Advise them on building and pollution around the estuary. Dredging should be available to communities on canals and bays to keep the waterways open and healthy. There seems to be a disconnect between individuals and government agencies.

“Tweets?” How can the general public become aware of technical topics? Make the topics as simple as possible and relevant to “them.”

Allow public access to the Program’s data sets and collections.

Create “aquaculture focus” on new techniques and products to grow kelp, oysters, mussels, etc.

## **Climate Change**

The bottom line to all of these concerns comes down to reducing our carbon footprint even though it is a global issue.