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May 1, 2018

Dennis Finnerty, Chairperson
Southampton Town Planning Board
Southampton Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11968

Re: Proposed Sag Harbor Impound Yard (SCTM NO. 900-40-1-3.1)

Dear Chairman Finnerty and Members of the Town Planning Board,

The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) recently learned of a Village of Sag Harbor proposal to create a paved municipal impound area on a Village parcel located immediately adjacent to the Long Pond Greenbelt (LPGB). While we understand the subject parcel is already partially impacted, given the historic and ecological significance of the surrounding area, we feel that the current and proposed use is incompatible.

There is a long history of public support to protect the LPGB and together with a multitude of partners, the Conservancy succeeded in preserving this unique and important continuous chain of coastal plain ponds in an area of intense developmental pressure. In addition, the subject parcel is largely undisturbed and hosts a variety of important ecological attributes, including the Eastern Tiger Salamander, a New York State endangered species. The proposed impound yard would compromise the character and ecological integrity of this unique system.

We understand the demand to locate additional space for municipal storage, but not to the detriment of multiple decades worth of conservation and preservation efforts. The Conservancy would be willing to work with the Town, the Village, and the multiple partners who manage the LPGB, to find a more suitable location and to brainstorm ways in which the subject parcel can be formally recognized as a nature preserve and added to the LPGB.

Sincerely,



Derek Rogers, Preserves Director, The Nature Conservancy

