



# TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **East Hampton Town Will Continue Fight Against Privatization of Ocean Beach**

**Following a denial of EH Town's bid to appeal a court decision that gave ownership of a stretch of Napeague beach to nearby property owners, the Town Board will pursue options, including condemnation**

East Hampton Town and the East Hampton Town Trustees have been fighting for the past 12 years to preserve public access to a 4,000 foot stretch of the Napeague ocean just west of Hither Hills State park, commonly known as "Truck Beach," in the case of Seaview at Amagansett Ltd v Trustees of Freeholders & Commonlaity of Town of East Hampton. Specifically, the Town and Trustees have opposed the claim of four homeowner's associations that sought private ownership of Truck Beach.

"The ability for all members of the public to access and use our beaches is a fundamental right for East Hampton's residents, one that must be protected and maintained," said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. "I will continue to work with the board and with our attorneys to safeguard this tradition, and to fight against the precedent of privatization of any part of our shore."

In 2016, the Town and Trustees won a New York State Supreme Court ruling that proclaimed the beach to be publicly owned. However, in February, 2021, the Appellate Division reversed the Supreme Court ruling and instead upheld the position of the homeowners' associations that they own the beach landward of the mean high water mark. In June, 2021, the Supreme Court further ordered East Hampton Town to restrict vehicle access to the area.

Following the Appellate Division decision, the Town sought further appeal to the New York State Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, but in a September 14 decision, the Town's motion to appeal was denied.