

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Legislator William R. Spencer and Chris Clapp, from The Nature Conservancy, explore site where system will be constructed



Legislator William R. Spencer addresses stakeholders at The Nature Conservancy

Legislator Spencer and The Nature Conservancy Announce Partnership to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution in Cold Spring Harbor

Suffolk County and The Nature Conservancy have joined forces to combat the nitrogen pollution crisis. The Suffolk County Legislature recently approved the recommendation by the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program Review Committee to award the Nature Conservancy a \$220,000 grant for a modern, nitrogen-reducing treatment system to be piloted at the Uplands Complex Sanctuary in Cold Spring Harbor. The grant, which will leverage matching funds from The Nature Conservancy, will also encompass a public education component for the thousands of annual visitors to The Nature Conservancy's Uplands Farms.

"This is an important partnership between Suffolk County and The Nature Conservancy to help clean up Cold Spring Harbor," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. "We continue to take steps forward to reclaim our water; however, we still have a long way to go in addressing the nitrogen crisis that pollute our waterways which built up over decades."

"We, at The Nature Conservancy, are excited to work with the County to invest in this modern technology and to reduce our nitrogen footprint to as close to zero as possible," stated Chris Clapp, Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

"Leveraging county resources to spark innovative solutions to our nitrogen pollution problem is a priority of mine. We have seen positive tangible results through investing in our wastewater

infrastructure, and we will continue this journey to restore our waterways,” stated Legislator William R. Spencer

The project will include the construction of a nitrogen-reducing wastewater wetland system that will replace four outdated cesspools that currently serve five buildings at The Nature Conservancy’s Upland Farms complex located less than a mile from Cold Spring Harbor.

The latest funding is part of Suffolk County’s *Reclaim Our Water* initiative, which includes the securing of nearly \$400 million in funding for the largest expansion of sewers in Suffolk County since the 1970s, and the release of the 2015 Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan that provides critical recommendations on how to manage and protect the region’s water supply.

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