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## Save Your Water

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To: Alexander Peters &lt;apeters13@gmail.com&gt;

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Dear Friend,

Our community needs your help. Inaction on the part of the East Hampton Town Council could endanger our local water supply, and we need to them to get involved. With your help, we may still be in time to prevent further damage to the Stony Hill aquifer and not see our taxes go up to pay for a water treatment plant while our property values sink.

Sign our petition (<http://www.change.org/petitions/save-the-stony-hill-aquifer-and-the-signature-tree>) and join a coalition of homeowners and environmental groups from the Town of East Hampton and across the South Fork of Long Island. We are working together to protect the Stony Hill aquifer – the primary source of our community’s drinking water – and the Signature Tree, an irreplaceable link to our region’s past. For those of you who haven’t heard, both are endangered by the recently begun development of the property at 15 Greentree Court.

East Hampton’s recent comprehensive plan instructs officials to “take forceful measures to protect and restore the environment, particularly groundwater,” and to purchase all available, undeveloped lots in the Stony Hill woods. Unfortunately the Town Council members ignored that mandate, and now our water supply and the health of our families and our property values at risk. If the Stony Hill aquifer is poisoned by this development, our community will be forced to build a water treatment plant that will be paid for by our tax dollars and likely lower our property values.

Geology and hydrology experts have long identified the Stony Hill aquifer as critically important to East Hampton’s public water supply. The Stony Hill aquifer supplies all the water to Springs and Amagansett. According to the Suffolk County Water Authority, 60 percent of Montauk’s public water now comes from the Stony Hill aquifer. In the 1990s, the Stony Hill aquifer was designated as a “critical watershed area” in the Town Code and land in this designated area has been a priority target for public acquisition and preservation by both the Town and Suffolk County for roughly two decades.

The Signature Tree is a 250-year old beech tree that bears markings and etchings spanning the recent history of human habitation in the region and is recognized as a historically significant Native American site. A New York State International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist has confirmed that the development of the Greentree Court property could interfere with the Signature Tree’s root system and resources with potentially devastating effects. Regardless of what happens to this property, our sincerest hope is that everything possible is done to protect this unique tree.

Visit our website and read the letter we sent to the property owners ([http://www.savestonyhill.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.savestonyhill.org/?page_id=13)). If you agree with our efforts, add your name to the letter by clicking on the link at the end of the signature list.