

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez
Candidate for East Hampton Town Board

1. Do you support the use of condemnation to re-establish public access to the beach at Napeague currently in dispute in the lawsuit? If yes, would you favor initiating condemnation proceedings immediately or would you wait until the Court of Appeals decides the appeal regardless of how long that may take?

Yes, I support the use of condemnation to re-establish public access to the beach at Napeague which is currently in dispute in the lawsuit. And yes, I would favor initiating condemnation proceedings immediately.

2. With the beach at Napeague now being private, what alternatives or options do you have for the people who have been using that beach for generations? Do you support the opening of additional access points to beaches in the Town of East Hampton to offer additional options for those who cannot access the beach at Napeague? If so where?

Given that the beach at Napeague is currently private, I would re-access beach road ends to see if there are opportunities to establish additional access points, taking into account the feasibility of the natural environment. In addition, we need to re-access parking at our beaches to see if additional parking spots can be created.

3. Do you support beach driving as a use of, and means of access to, East Hampton beaches? If No, how would you change the current laws and uses related to beach driving and why?

Yes, I support beach driving as a use of, and means of access to, East Hampton beaches.

4. What will you do to ensure that families who have made a living fishing the beach at Napeague for generations and the public will be able to continue to do so?

To ensure that families who have made a living fishing the beach at Napeague for generations as well as the public will be able to continue to use our beaches we need protect the reservations from the Benson Deed. We also need to ensure that current methods of fishing are included/protected.

5. Would you support an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that calls for public ownership of all ocean beaches in the town?

I would be supportive, but I'm not sure an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan is the appropriate mechanism. It may be more effective to bolster the "Public Access" policies in the LWRP, which is due for an update.

6. There is a possibility that other homeowners associations will follow the lead of the Napeague property owners and commence lawsuits claiming they own the ocean beaches adjacent to their developments. What, if anything, do you think the town should do now to head off such actions in the future?

To head off lawsuits in the future, the town should file quick claim deeds, utilize eminent domain or employ any other mechanism necessary to claim ownership of ocean beaches.

Cate Rogers
Candidate for East Hampton Town Board

1. Do you support the use of condemnation to re-establish public access to the beach at Napeague currently in dispute in the lawsuit? If yes, would you favor initiating condemnation proceedings immediately or would you wait until the Court of Appeals decides the appeal regardless of how long that may take? [I support the condemnation process to the beach at Napeague for the public good and support initiating it immediately.](#)
2. With the beach at Napeague now being private, what alternatives or options do you have for the people who have been using that beach for generations? Do you support the opening of additional access points to beaches in the Town of East Hampton to offer additional options for those who cannot access the beach at Napeague? If so where? [I support improving public access. I cannot identify access points without reviewing existing parcels.](#)
3. Do you support beach driving as a use of, and means of access to, East Hampton beaches? If No, how would you change the current laws and uses related to beach driving and why? [Yes, I support the right to drive on the beach.](#)
4. What will you do to ensure that families who have made a living fishing the beach at Napeague for generations and the public will be able to continue to do so? [There are social and economic impacts to privatizing the beaches and it defies our history. As homes prices soar, if the Public Trust Doctrine is not respected by local government and state government, the socio-economic disparity will worsen as only the very few will have beach access and the rest of our coastal community will become land locked. I support legislation locally and will lobby the state to protect our right to the beach for all through legislation as discussed below and any measure necessary.](#)
5. Would you support an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that calls for public ownership of all ocean beaches in the town? [The Comp. Plan is a planning road map and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, which was adopted into the Comp. Plan and relates to our beaches and waterways needs to be updated to reflect the threat of privatization of beaches and the increasing threat to public access from sea level rise. I would support updating the LWRP to include the recommendation for rolling public use easements to be placed on our public beaches which would have the ability to be redrawn in the future to adjust for sea level rise with the basis being the Public Trust Doctrine.](#)
6. There is a possibility that other homeowners associations will follow the lead of the Napeague property owners and commence lawsuits claiming they own the ocean beaches adjacent to their developments. What, if anything, do you think the town should do now to head off such actions in the future? [Public servants are obliged to protect our inherent right to access to our beaches. I support legislation on a local level such as initiating condemnation proceedings, the easements I discussed in my answer to question 5 and legislation on a state level that gives necessary strength to the Public Trust Doctrine. Our history and much of our community was built by unfettered public access to our beaches and I will honor that history now and for future generations.](#)