



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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EAST HAMPTON TOWN TO PURCHASE, PRESERVE MAJOR TRACT OF AMAGANSETT FARMLAND

*Agreement with Bistran family protects 32.6 acres adjacent to core Amagansett downtown
and historic district in town's largest farmland preservation effort to date*

**\$28 million Community Preservation Fund purchase will preserve prime agricultural soils
and wide-open vista stretching north toward Town Lane from the municipal parking lot**

The important, centrally located property has long been eyed for preservation. The agreement between the Town and the Bistran family is a culmination of years of discussion and attempts to come to an agreement. The Bistrans had previously proposed residential development on the property.

East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc had negotiated an agreement with the Bistrans in early 2020, just prior to the pandemic, but discussions regarding the terms of the purchase were recently completed.

Mr. Van Scoyoc and Deputy Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez met members of the family at the property on Friday after the Bistrans had signed the agreement.

The acreage includes nine separate lots. East Hampton Town will make an outright purchase of five lots, representing 17.5 acres, and acquire an agricultural easement over the remaining 15.1 acres, preserving it in perpetuity for agriculture.

The Town will complete the \$16 million land purchase before the end of this year. Before the end of 2022, the Town will acquire the easements over the remaining parcels for \$12 million, guaranteeing that the property remains in an "open, undeveloped, and scenic state and be available for agricultural and open space purposes," according to the agreement.

The terms of the easement restrict the placement of agricultural buildings, outlining two limited "development areas" where buildings or farmstands may be placed, and prohibit plantings or fencing that would block the scenic farmland vista.

The easement agreement also calls for the planting of a cover crop, if any area of the land is to remain fallow, in order to prevent soil erosion.

The agreement between the Town and the Bistrans resolves a conflict that had been before the courts over ownership of a “paper street” by transferring it to the Bistrans. The former roadway will then be covered by the agricultural easement, except for a small portion that can be used as access to the farm from Windmill Lane.

In exchange, the agreement between the landowners and the town also calls for the town to become the owner of a 1.25-acre area adjacent to the Amagansett parking lot.

“Preservation of this prime farmland in a core agricultural area, with a vista enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors, is a key achievement, made possible by our Community Preservation Fund, which lists farmland protection as the number-one priority to preserve community character,” said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. “I cannot be more pleased that this land, and the ability to continue to farm it, will remain protected for generations to come, in perpetuity.”

Photo caption:

Britton Bistran, left, with Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, Barbara Bistran Borg, Barry Bistran, and Deputy Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez at the Amagansett farmland on Friday. Photo credit: Richard Lewin