



**TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND**  
*(A Special Revenue Fund of  
The Town of Shelter Island, New York)*  
*Special Purpose Presentation*  
Financial Statements with  
Independent Auditor's Reports  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023



TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Supervisor and Town Board  
Town of Shelter Island  
Shelter Island, New York

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying fund financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund, as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in fund balance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund are intended to present the fund balance and the changes in fund balance, of only that portion of the financial activities of the Town of Shelter Island that is attributable to the transactions of the Community Preservation Fund. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the Town of Shelter Island, as of December 31, 2023 or the changes in its financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 29, 2024, on our consideration of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Smithtown, NY  
July 29, 2024

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

*(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)*

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Water Quality Improvement Project Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash - restricted	\$ 1,677,609	\$ -	\$ 1,677,609
Cash in time deposits - restricted	11,545,254	-	11,545,254
Interfund receivable	-	3,415,768	3,415,768
Due from other governments	<u>128,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,603</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 13,351,466</u>	 <u>\$ 3,415,768</u>	 <u>\$ 16,767,234</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 73,163	\$ -	\$ 73,163
Interfund payable	<u>3,415,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,415,768</u>
 Total liabilities	 3,488,931	 -	 3,488,931
 <u>FUND BALANCE</u>			
Restricted	<u>9,862,535</u>	<u>3,415,768</u>	<u>13,278,303</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 <u>\$ 13,351,466</u>	 <u>\$ 3,415,768</u>	 <u>\$ 16,767,234</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

*(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)*

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Water Quality Improvement Project Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Real estate transfer tax	\$ 1,903,562	\$ 475,890	\$ 2,379,452
Use of money and property	394,963	144,857	539,820
Refund of prior year expenditures	10	-	10
	<u>2,298,535</u>	<u>620,747</u>	<u>2,919,282</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Home and community services			
Administrative	13,889	21,249	35,138
Land acquisition	573,712	-	573,712
Stewardship	22,272	-	22,272
Water quality improvement projects	-	178,138	178,138
	<u>609,873</u>	<u>199,387</u>	<u>809,260</u>
Employee benefits	647	1,620	2,267
	<u>610,520</u>	<u>201,007</u>	<u>811,527</u>
Net change in fund balances for year	1,688,015	419,740	2,107,755
Fund Balances - beginning of year	<u>8,174,520</u>	<u>2,996,028</u>	<u>11,170,548</u>
Fund Balances - end of year	<u>\$ 9,862,535</u>	<u>\$ 3,415,768</u>	<u>\$ 13,278,303</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund (Community Preservation Fund) was created by Section 64-e of New York State Town Law during 1998 as a Reserve for Community Preservation. The Community Preservation Fund is a special revenue fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York (Town) and is governed by the Town Board. These financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) for governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. Significant accounting principles and policies used by the Community Preservation Fund are as follows:

a. Organization and Background

The Community Preservation Fund is supported by revenues from a 2% real estate transfer tax imposed by the Town pursuant to Article 31-D of New York State Tax Law. The authority to levy and collect the tax expires on December 31, 2050. This revenue is used to purchase historic lands and buildings, parks and recreation properties, open space and forestlands, wetlands, beaches, and shoreline and farmland for the purpose of land preservation, and to provide for the management and stewardship program for such purchases, and to implement water quality improvement projects. The Town has become a leader in land preservation with the assistance of some matching funds from other governments. The Community Preservation Fund program advances the Town's goals in wetlands and open space preservation, protection of historical sites, establishment of parks and recreation areas, and for water quality improvement projects.

In 2016, the Town Code was amended to permit the Town to use up to 20% of the Community Preservation Fund revenues to undertake water quality improvement projects.

b. Basis of Presentation

These financial statements only report the operations and related transactions of the Community Preservation Fund; whereby the audited financial statements of the Town of Shelter Island include all Town funds. Additionally, the financial statements of the Town of Shelter Island would include all non-current assets and non-current liabilities for all Town funds.

- I. Operating Fund – This fund is the principal operating fund of the Community Preservation Fund. It is used to account for all financial resources related to the acquisition of open space land and for the preservation, management, and stewardship of such.
- II. Water Quality Improvement Project Fund – This fund is used to account for the activities related to water quality improvement projects.

c. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus and basis of accounting. These financial statements are accounted for using the current financial resources focus and follows the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, generally only current assets and current liabilities are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in fund balances. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be reasonably determined, and "available" means the related cash resources are collectible within the current period or within the first 120 days of the following year.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – continued

c. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting – continued

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital assets acquisitions are reported as expenditures in the fund. Proceeds of general long-term debt are reported as other financing sources.

The modified accrual basis of accounting varies from accounting principles under U.S. GAAP primarily in that under GAAP:

- Financial statements are replaced with the basic financial statements and include two additional statements, the statement of net position and the statement of activities, collectively referred to as the “government-wide” financial statements, which are presented on the full accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, revenues and expenses are recognized when incurred regardless of when the actual cash receipt or disbursement occurred.
- Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is required as supplementary information that precedes the basic financial statements and is intended to provide an objective analysis of the government’s financial activities, both on a current and long-term basis, based on current conditions.
- Fund-based financial statements must be reconciled to the “government-wide” financial statements.
- Capital assets, other than land, are depreciated and reported on the “government wide” statement of net position at net book value, and depreciation expense is allocated to the major functions on the statement of activities based on the use of the underlying assets.

d. Cash and Cash Equivalents, Restricted

Cash and cash equivalents consist of funds deposited in demand accounts, NYCLASS (see note 2), and time deposit accounts.

e. Prepays

Prepays represent payments made by the Community Preservation Fund for which benefits extend beyond year end. These payments represent costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaids in the fund financial statements. These items are reported as assets on the Balance Sheet using the consumption method. Under the consumption method, a current asset for the prepaid item is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expenditure is reported in the year the goods or services are consumed. As of December 31, 2023, there were no prepaids.

f. Real Estate Transfer Tax

During November 1998, the residents of the Town approved a 2% real estate transfer tax to fund the operations of the Community Preservation Fund. The transfer tax became effective April 1, 1999. Transfer tax receipts are used for the purchase and/or preservation of agricultural land, open space, parks, or historic preservation sites. In 2016, the residents of the Town approved an extension of the transfer tax through December 31, 2050, and the allowance of up to 20% of the annual fund to be used for water quality improvement projects. The tax applies to sales of unimproved real property in excess of \$100,000 and sales of improved real property in excess of \$250,000. In November of 2022, the residents of the Town approved to increase the exemption for sales of improved land from \$250,000 to \$400,000. The amendment is effective beginning April 1, 2023. Conveyance of real property for open space, parks, or historic preservation purposes to any not-for-profit, or tax-exempt organization operating for conservation, environmental, or historic preservation purposes is exempt from this tax.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – continued

g. Fund Statements

Fund statements report balances for governmental funds in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The five fund balance classifications utilized by the Town are as follows; however, the Community Preservation Fund only utilizes restricted:

*Nonspendable* – Consists of amounts that are inherently nonspendable in the current period either because of their form or because they must be maintained intact.

*Restricted* – Consists of amounts that are subject to externally enforceable legal purpose restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The fund balance of the Community Preservation Fund is a restricted fund of the Town.

*Committed* - Amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by a formal action such as legislation, resolution, or ordinance by the government's highest level of decision-making authority.

*Assigned* - Amounts that are constrained only by the government's intent to be used for a specified purpose, but are not restricted or committed in any manner.

*Unassigned* - In a special revenue fund, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending of available resources.

h. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Deposits With Financial Institutions and Investments

The Town's investment practices are governed by state statutes and Town policy. Community Preservation Fund monies must be deposited in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the state. Permissible investments include obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agencies, repurchase agreements, and obligations of New York State or its localities. Collateral is required for demand and time deposits and certificates of deposit not covered by FDIC insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its Agencies and obligations of New York State and its municipalities.

Concentration of Credit Risk – Credit risk can arise as a result of failure to adequately diversify investments. Concentration risk disclosure is required for a position of 5% or more in securities of a single user.

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits/Investments – Custodial credit risk for deposits exists when, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government may be unable to recover deposits, or recover collateral securities that are in possession of an outside agency. Custodial credit risk for investments exists when, in the event of failure of the counterpart, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

2. Deposits With Financial Institutions and Investments – continued

Credit Risk – State and town law limit the investment to those authorized by State statutes. The investment policy and guidelines are designed to protect the principal by limiting credit risk. This is accomplished by ratings, collateral, and diversification.

GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures*, directs that deposits be disclosed as exposed to custodial credit risk if they are not covered by depository insurance and the deposits are as follows:

- A. Uncollateralized,
- B. Collateralized by securities held by the pledging financial institution, or
- C. Collateralized by securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the Town's name.

The Town's aggregate bank balances, including those of the Community Preservation Fund, were covered by FDIC insurance or fully collateralized by securities and letters of credit pledged on the Town's behalf at year-end in the Town's name.

Investments in NYCLASS

The Community Preservation Fund participates in a multi-municipal cooperative investment pool agreement pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Articles 3A and 5-G, §119-O, whereby it holds a portion of the investments in cooperation with other participants. The investments are highly liquid and are considered to be cash equivalents. Total investments of the cooperative as of December 31, 2023 are \$10,734,696,590 of which \$1,902,999,197 in Repurchase Agreements, \$5,732,723,536 in Treasury Bills, \$1,379,888,589 in U.S. Treasury Securities, and \$1,719,085,268 in collateralized bank deposits, with various interest rate and due dates.

The above amounts represent the cost of the investment pool shares, and are considered to approximate fair value. The investment pool is categorically exempt from the New York State collateral requirements. Additional information concerning the cooperative is presented in the annual report of the New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS).

According to the GASB, in order for an investment pool to qualify for the use of amortized cost accounting for financial reporting purposes, it must meet all of the criteria listed in GASB Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. NYCLASS and NYCLASS Prime are managed as stable value net asset value ("NAV") pools but do not meet all of the specific criteria outlined in GASB 79 Paragraph 4. Therefore, NYCLASS Participants should report their investments in the pools at fair value. Accordingly, the Community Preservation Fund has measured its investment in NYCLASS at fair value.

Investment Objective

The Community Preservation Fund's investment in NYCLASS is primarily for the purpose of achieving competitive returns on its idle cash balances while maintaining liquidity and capital preservation.

Nature of Investment

NYCLASS primarily invests in high-quality, short-term fixed income securities, such as U.S. Treasury securities, government agency securities, and other instruments permitted under New York State law for local government investments. The investment portfolio is managed by professional investment managers appointed by NYCLASS's governing body, subject to oversight by the NYCLASS Board of Trustees.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

2. Deposits With Financial Institutions and Investments – continued

Fair Value Measurement

The fair value of the Community Preservation Fund's investment in NYCLASS is determined based on the fair value of NYCLASS's underlying investment portfolio, which is reported to the Community Preservation Fund on a periodic basis by NYCLASS's investment managers. The fair value measurement is based on observable market prices for securities traded in active markets and valuation techniques, including discounted cash flow analysis, for securities that do not have readily determinable market prices.

Since NYCLASS measures its investments at fair value, the Community Preservation Fund is not required to categorize its investment in NYCLASS within the fair value hierarchy for purposes of GASB 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*.

Risk Factors

While NYCLASS seeks to minimize investment risks through diversification and adherence to investment guidelines, the Community Preservation Fund acknowledges that investments in fixed income securities are subject to various risks, including interest rate risk, credit risk, and liquidity risk. Furthermore, changes in market conditions, regulatory requirements, and economic factors may impact the performance of NYCLASS's investment portfolio and, consequently, the fair value of the Community Preservation Fund's investment.

Credit Risk Disclosure

NYCLASS and NYCLASS Prime are rated by S&P Global Ratings. The current rating is 'AAAm.'

Custodial Credit Risk Disclosure

NYCLASS and NYCLASS Prime are external investment pools and, therefore, are not subject to custodial credit risk; investments in the pools are exempt from the reporting requirement.

Interest Rate Risk Disclosure

The dollar weighted average days to maturity (WAM) of NYCLASS at December 31, 2023, was 41 days and the weighted average life (WAL) was 87 days.

As of December 31, 2023, the fair value of the Community Preservation Fund's investment in NYCLASS amounted to \$11,545,254. The investment in NYCLASS is classified as cash in time deposits on the Community Preservation Fund's Balance Sheet.

The Community Preservation Fund believes that its investment in NYCLASS aligns with its investment objectives and prudent investment practices. However, the Community Preservation Fund continuously monitors the performance and risk profile of its investment portfolio, including its investment in NYCLASS, to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and internal investment policies.

3. Due From Other Governments

At December 31, 2023, the Community Preservation Fund was due \$128,603 from Suffolk County, related to unremitted real estate transfer taxes. The balance was subsequently collected in full. Therefore, no allowance against this amount is required.

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

(A Special Revenue Fund of the Town of Shelter Island, New York)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

4. Interfund Balances

Interfund balances at December 31, 2023, resulted from a resolution of the Town Board on December 28, 2023 to move the net accumulated funds of the Water Quality Improvement Project Fund, a sub-fund of the Community Preservation Fund, to a new bank account. The objective of the transfer to a new bank account is to improve the tracking of receipts and disbursements of the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

	Interfund Balances	
	<u>Receivables</u>	<u>Payables</u>
Community Preservation Fund	\$ -	\$ 3,415,768
Water Quality Improvement Project Fund	<u>3,415,768</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,415,768</u>	<u>\$ 3,415,768</u>

5. Contingencies

The Community Preservation Fund financial information presented in the Town's December 31, 2023 audited financial statements may be different from these financial statements due to timing.

6. Commitments

In November of 2017 the Town Board passed a resolution granting rebates to homeowners who upgrade their septic systems or cesspools to approved nitrogen-reducing systems. These rebates are funded through the Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Project Fund. As of December 31, 2023, the Town Board has awarded \$399,000 to residents, which remain unpaid. It is possible that residents will withdraw their application or fail to meet the criteria for a full rebate under the terms of the program. Therefore, the Community Preservation Fund has not accrued a liability related to this potential obligation.

7. Risks and Uncertainties

- a. Town Audit - As of July 29, 2024, the Town's December 31, 2023, audited financial statements have not been issued. The Town's management believes that any adjustment to the Town's financial statements will not have a material effect, if any, on the Community Preservation Fund's account balances as of December 31, 2023, and for the year then ended.
- b. Environmental Risks - The Community Preservation Fund is subject to federal, state, and local regulations relating to the disposal of certain hazardous materials. At July 29, 2024, Management is not aware of any potential hazardous materials or risks related to properties owned.

8. Subsequent Events

The Community Preservation Fund has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the auditor's report, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No significant events were identified that would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements, except for the following:

- Subsequent to December 31, 2023, and through the audit opinion date, the Community Preservation Fund has issued \$82,681 of septic system rebates authorized in 2023 and prior years, see Note 6 for more details on this program.
- On March 18, 2024, the Town Board approved the acquisition of 7.1 acres of land located between South Midway Road and Dickerson Creek Shelter Island, NY, as a 50% partner with Suffolk County. The total purchase price of the subject parcels is \$3 million, the Town's contribution of \$1.5 million is to be paid by the Community Preservation Fund.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

The Honorable Supervisor and Town Board  
Town of Shelter Island  
Shelter Island, New York

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Town of Shelter Island Community Preservation Fund (Community Preservation Fund), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 29, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Community Preservation Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal controls) as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Community Preservation Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Community Preservation Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements, on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses, or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses and significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Community Preservation Fund's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Community Preservation Fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Fitzsimmons & Meyer, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Smithtown, NY  
July 29, 2024