**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Matt Parsons Announces Candidacy for Southampton Town Trustee, Pledges to Restore the Productivity of Our Bays

Southampton, NY – June 6, 2023 - Today, Matt Parsons of East Quogue, proudly declares his candidacy for Southampton Town Trustee, focusing on revitalizing the town's bays and preserving their natural resources. With a marine biology background, extensive experience as a commercial bayman, and a passion for conservation, Parsons is committed to bringing back the productivity of our beloved bays for current and future generations to enjoy.

Growing up, Parsons heard stories from his father about the thriving clamming industry on the Great South Bay, where families could earn a living off the water. Recognizing that the bays have undergone significant changes, he believes in the power of restoration and aims to reverse the decline by harnessing the natural potential of our bays themselves.

"As a candidate for Southampton Town Trustee, I am proud to declare my strong support for shellfish and my commitment to restoring the health and vitality of our bays," said Parsons. "Through innovative habitat management and enhanced shellfish seeding programs, we can significantly increase the number of clams, oysters, scallops, and mussels in our bays. Their natural filtration and sediment anchoring capabilities will improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and boost financial productivity."

Parsons recognizes the need for a dedicated shellfish hatchery in the Town of Southampton, similar to the one in East Hampton. With his marine biology background and previous experience volunteering for Cornell Cooperative Marine Program, he understands the critical role that shellfish habitats play in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

During his time as a Fisheries Observer for the National Marine Fisheries, Parsons spent over a thousand days at sea. He worked on projects such as the Closed Area Scallop program, which created sanctuaries where sea scallops could thrive and spawn, revitalizing the productivity of the entire region.

As a father of three children, Parsons deeply values passing on the traditions and joys of the bay to future generations. His children can spot and dig razor clams at low tide, savor scallops straight from the shell, and even pull up hard clams with their toes. Parsons’ is to leave a more robust, healthy, and productive bay for future generations to cherish.

By utilizing his marine biology expertise, experience as a commercial bayman, and commitment to conservation, Parsons seeks to maintain access to all the bays and shorelines for all residents of Southampton, and collaborate with the community to achieve a thriving and sustainable future for Southampton's coastal resources.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with Matt Parsons, please contact:

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