

DISCUSSION DRAFT

To: Shelter Island Town Board
From: Andrew Chapman
Chair of the Water Advisory Committee
On Behalf of the Water Advisory Committee
Date: October 20, 2025
Re: Recommendation on drought status

Water Advisory Committee Drought Status Recommendation

At our October 20, 2025, Water Advisory Committee meeting, the WAC voted to maintain the “D1 Moderate Drought” Status recommendation.

Voluntary Restrictions

The Water Advisory Committee continues to recommend that voluntary conservation and water use restrictions be adopted by the Town Board and communicated to the public. We recommend such voluntary restrictions request that all forms of irrigation be restricted to the hours between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. until further notice.

RATIONALE-

New York State Drought Monitoring – The NYDEC continued the “WATCH” rating for Suffolk County.

Regional Northeast “Drought Early Warning System” (DEWS)

The current DEWS status: The drought Intensity was downgraded in the October 7 issue from “D0 Abnormally Dry” to “D1 Moderate Drought”.

Aquifer Height Well Readings and Percent Rank Comparison to History:

Due to the Federal shutdown only data from the functioning automated measurement system is available (the Goat Hill well).

- The Goat Hill well aquifer height versus history is in the 13th percentile, a slight increase from prior scoring.
- Raw numbers for September are essentially level, with a very small drop in height. The charts attached are the raw heights for the Goat Hill well since June and a close up for September to middle of October.

Precipitation and Other Observations:

There were 2 measurable rainfall events in September, ranging around 3 to 3.75 inches (according to the Weather Underground private measurement website).

Goat Hill Raw Aquifer Height

