



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of East Hampton and East Hampton Historical Society to Begin Multi-Year Renovation of the East Hampton Town Marine Museum Building

East Hampton, NY — May 12, 2026 — The Town of East Hampton and the East Hampton Historical Society are moving forward with plans for a comprehensive, multi-year renovation of the East Hampton Town Marine Museum after a burst pipe damaged the historic building this winter. The Museum will not open this summer while the Town and Historical Society begin remediation and planning for the work.

The Museum, located at 301 Bluff Road in Amagansett, will remain closed to the public as the Town and Historical Society move forward with remediation and renovation work. The winter damage prompted a broader review of the building and helped identify additional needs that require a long-term approach rather than a short-term repair.

The Marine Museum helps tell the story of East Hampton's deep connection to the sea through exhibits on fishing, whaling, maritime work, and the role the marine environment has played in the community's economic, social, and recreational life. Originally constructed as Navy barracks during World War II, the building was later gifted to the Town of East Hampton, which partnered with the East Hampton Historical Society to transform it into the East Hampton Town Marine Museum in 1966. Since its opening, the Museum has served as a critical place for preserving and sharing East Hampton's maritime history.

The Town owns the Museum building and grounds, while the East Hampton Historical Society manages the Museum's exhibitions and artifact collections. The planned renovation will address the building itself and provide an opportunity for the Historical Society to update and develop exhibitions inside the Museum.

During an exceptionally cold period this winter, heat was lost in the building and a pipe burst, causing flooding that affected multiple floors, primarily on the eastern side of the structure. As the Town responded to the damage, it became clear the building requires a more comprehensive approach than short-term repairs.

The planned work is expected to include interior renovations, electrical upgrades, removal of affected wiring, asbestos abatement where required, HVAC improvements, a new first-floor ADA-accessible bathroom, flooring work, and other building upgrades. The Town is also planning exterior improvements, including shingle work, trim and gutter repairs, storm window work, ADA access improvements, and related upgrades.

“This building is part of East Hampton’s history, and while there is a lot that needs to be done, this is also an opportunity to make a long-term investment in preserving that history,” said Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez. “We are grateful for our continued partnership with the East Hampton Historical Society, and we want to take the time to do this thoughtfully so the building can continue serving the community for generations to come.”

The Town is engaging LKMA to develop plans for the project, including interior and exterior improvements. Cost estimates will be developed as plans are completed. The Town and the East Hampton Historical Society will work together to pursue grants, private support, and other funding sources. In addition, the Historical Society expects to undertake a major capital campaign to support the development of new exhibitions inside the Museum and help ensure the Museum is prepared for long-term use.

“This is not simply about repairing damage from one incident,” said Councilmember Tom Flight. “The burst pipe brought attention to larger issues that need to be addressed. A piecemeal approach would not serve the building or the community well. Working with the East Hampton Historical Society, we have an opportunity to protect this historic structure and prepare it for the future.”

“While the Marine Museum will not be able to open this summer, the East Hampton Historical Society sees this as an incredibly important opportunity to modernize the building and update the Marine Museum’s exhibitions,” said Steve Long of the East Hampton Historical Society. “We are grateful to work in partnership with the Town of East Hampton on a thoughtful, long-term plan for the Museum, and we look forward to undertaking a major capital campaign to ensure it can continue serving residents, visitors, students, and future generations.”

The Town and Historical Society will provide additional updates as planning, funding, and renovation work move forward.