

## **New York State Parks and West River Parkway**

### **How will you address the impact of the current 'high/low' mowing policy on insects and rodents?**

I am not a fan of the way the current 'high/low' mowing policy has been implemented. While I support the idea of designated pollination areas and the natural growth of native grasses to encourage biodiversity, I believe these areas should be clearly marked, edged, or fenced to define their boundaries. This ensures that the habitat areas are respected and maintained while keeping the rest of the parkland neat and accessible for residents. Regular mowing in designated recreational zones helps reduce rodent activity, maintain a clean appearance, and encourage greater community use. My goal would be to find a balanced approach—supporting pollinators and native species while keeping our public spaces inviting, safe, and usable for residents and visitors alike.

### **How should shoreline maintenance and invasive species be handled?**

Erosion control must remain a top priority, but it should be done thoughtfully and without obstructing the views that make the West River Parkway so special. There are environmentally friendly shoreline stabilization methods—such as native plantings and natural buffers—that prevent erosion without resorting to large-scale barriers or obstructions. Invasive species removal should be done in coordination with state and local environmental agencies, with a focus on prevention through early detection and consistent maintenance. Most importantly, I believe residents should continue to have access to the shoreline and water views, as these are key elements of Grand Island's identity and quality of life.

### **The dock permitting process for the West River is a difficult and frustrating process. What changes would you work towards to make the dock permit process more user friendly?**

Absolutely—this is an issue I hear about frequently. I believe West River residents should have priority access to the space directly in front of their properties, with a clear and fair 'first right of refusal' during the renewal process. The current system is overly complicated and discourages residents from even applying. I would work with New York State Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation to streamline the process, establish transparent criteria, and create a resident-first policy that values local homeowners' connection to the river. Simplifying the paperwork and improving communication between agencies would go a long way toward making this process more fair and efficient.

## **Long Road Development**

### **What is your position on large buildings and warehouse projects west of the Thruway?**

I was part of the working group that successfully advanced the M-1 zoning law, which placed reasonable limits on large-scale industrial and warehouse developments. While the law was not as robust as some of us hoped, it represented important progress and was what we could realistically achieve at the time. That said, zoning reform remains a work in progress. I am committed to participating in the next phase of updates to ensure we protect our community's character, promote responsible development, and attract businesses that are compatible with Grand Island's long-term vision.

**How will you deal with drainage problems and protect designated wetlands in this area?**

This is an issue I have been actively researching. It appears our previous submissions to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lacked the documentation needed to move forward. My intention is to work closely with the Town's Engineering Department and the DEC in the coming months to get this process back on track before the spring thaw. Proper drainage and wetland protection are not only environmental concerns—they are also critical to preventing property damage and maintaining compliance with state regulations. I want to ensure that development proceeds responsibly, with proper oversight and accountability at every stage.

**What steps would you support to reduce noise and light from future projects here and other locations on Grand Island?**

While I am not an expert in lighting design, I have consulted with lighting professionals who have shown me practical ways to maintain safe and well-lit properties while minimizing the impact on nearby neighborhoods. Too often, those specifications are approved but not enforced during construction. I would ensure that what is approved on paper is what's actually implemented. As for noise control, I believe we should require the largest possible buffer zones between industrial uses and residential areas, depending on the project's scale and intensity. Enforcing these standards consistently will help protect residents' quality of life as new projects move forward.

## **Traffic and Safety**

**What can be done to improve safety and vehicle speed enforcement on West River Road and connecting streets?**

Speeding on West River Road has been a long-standing problem. I would like to see an increase in targeted enforcement, including more regular speed traps and expanded use of the portable speed trailer to gather data on when and where speeding is most common. Using this data-driven approach allows law enforcement to deploy resources more effectively. I would also explore additional signage and potential design improvements—such as visual narrowing measures—to encourage drivers to reduce speed without overburdening residents

with constant enforcement.

## **Property Reassessment**

**What is your view of the reassessment? Should it be reviewed or done again within four years?**

I have serious concerns about the recent reassessment process and found many aspects of it to be deeply flawed. The methodology and consistency of the contractor's work deserve a full after-action review, and I intend to work with the Town Board to determine whether negligence or procedural errors occurred. In general, I do not support reassessments every four years, as they tend to amplify inequities rather than smooth them out. Market conditions change unpredictably, and basing assessments too frequently on short-term market fluctuations unfairly penalizes long-term homeowners. Any future reassessment process should be more transparent, better communicated, and include meaningful public input before being implemented.

## **Commitment to West River Homeowners**

**Our main concern is whether you will represent and work with West River homeowners as we face these issues.**

I fully intend to represent all residents of Grand Island—including those along the West River—with fairness, accessibility, and transparency. My approach is rooted in common sense and collaboration, not partisanship or noise. I believe our community's challenges can be solved through clear communication, practical compromise, and a focus on what's best for residents. You can count on me to listen, advocate, and work tirelessly to ensure that West River homeowners' voices are heard and respected.