



**Town of South Thomaston, Maine**  
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**Selectboard:**  
Jeff Northgraves  
Walter Reitz  
John Spear

Conservation Commission Minutes  
Date: September 8, 2021, 5:00 PM  
Place: Municipal Building

Conservation Commission Members Present: Catherine Bendheim, Linda Garat, Theo Pratt, Leslie Spear, Henry Spencer, Sondra Wallace.

Others Present: Wes Pratt (First Associate).

1. Opening remarks by Theo Pratt, Chair: a brief review of the past activities of the South Thomaston Conservation Group.
2. Self-introduction by the Commissioners. Each individual spoke about their background and indicated which conservation activity or project was of most interest to them. These include road beautification, water quality, native plants, adopting rules and procedures to govern the Commission, establishing trails and water access, and educating the public regarding how to live a sustainable life.
3. Determining which projects should be discussed at the meeting on October 13. Leslie Spear stated that there is a 1.5-acre property for sale for \$135,000 on Island Road that might offer water access. She will bring more information about this in October. Theo Pratt emphasized the importance of public talks and organizing educational events, including on the pressing topic of sea level rise. Leslie Spear was a teacher for a number of years, and knows a number of potential speakers.
4. Letter from Annette Naegel of the Georges River Land Trust. A town resident, Wayne Brown, indicated to the GRLT his interest in protecting two parcels of land - 22 & 24 Chapel Street. Ms. Naegel turned this possibility over to the STCC (although we would welcome their advice, if needed). Catherine Bendheim and Sondra Wallace offered to contact Mr. Brown to determine if he wants to create an easement or sell these properties. The land is highly visible and accessible, and would provide water access. Benches could perhaps be placed, and there is adequate parking at the United Methodist Church (except when services are being held).

Henry Spencer moved and Linda Garat seconded a motion to proceed with this first initiative. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Discussion of requirements for remote participation by town citizens if one or more Commissioners cannot attend the monthly meeting in person. The minimum number of Commissioners to constitute a quorum is four, and if we can maintain this number, it would not be necessary to set up video conferencing, which might either be time consuming or difficult.

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6. Other Business. Catherine Bendheim will bring to the next meeting maps that she got from Andrew Stancioff, who is an excellent resource on the subject. She will speak with Terri Baines about setting up a google address – [conservation@souththomaston.me](mailto:conservation@souththomaston.me), and in addition, mentioned creating a link on the town website to an external website, wherein the STCC determines the content.
  7. Motion for Adjournment. It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed 6-0.