



**Town of South Thomaston, Maine**  
**125 Spruce Head Road**  
**P.O. Box 147**  
**South Thomaston, ME 04858-0147**

**Tel:** 207-596-6584  
**Fax:** 207-596-7529  
**E-mail:** terri@souththomaston.me  
**Website:** www.souththomaston.me

**Selectboard:**  
Jeff Northgraves  
Sue Snow  
John Spear

Conservation Commission Meeting, September 13, 2023  
In-Person Meeting at the Town Office, with Zoom Video Conferencing

STCC Commissioners present: Linda Garat, Catherine Lerme, Leslie Spear, Henry Spencer, Sondra Wallace

STCC Commissioner not present: Neil Cambridge

Associate Member present: Sally Merchant

**I. Call to Order.** Sondra Wallace, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

**II. Adjustments to Agenda.** Leslie Spear formally thanked Henry Spencer for his service to the STCC this past year as Chair.

**III. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (August 9, 2023).** Catherine Lerme made a motion to accept the Minutes, seconded by Leslie, then unanimously approved. Sondra said that in future, regarding joint meetings of the STCC with other Boards and Committees, it would be helpful if these entities give us the opportunity to read their draft Minutes before they are submitted for posting on the Town website.

#### **IV. Old Business.**

- a. Update on Smith, Cline properties; land conservation plans. The Cline transaction has closed. Regarding the Smith property, a pre-pre application for Land for Maine's Future (LMF) grant money – the Select Board being the applicant – has been submitted to the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, which would be our "sponsoring state agency" for the LMF grant. We intend to make a full application, again on behalf of the SB, when the LMF program issues its next call for grant applications. It was agreed that the STCC should determine our goals for these properties, how much money is needed to achieve them, and ultimately solicit donations from the public - not only to positively impact the cost of acquiring the land but to pay for its development, including the hiring of a professional forester to plan trails, identify invasives, etc.  
Further to a forester, Catherine and Sally Merchant mentioned Barrie Brusila of Mid-Maine Forestry, who ideally would meet with the STCC and walk the land, although Catherine felt it would be good policy to interview two other professionals. We can also

benefit from the trail development experiences of the St. George and Owls Head Conservation Commissions. Sondra said that the Knox County Conservation Commissions Working Group is holding its quarterly meeting on September 14, and that evening she will cite creation of a forest preserve (comprising the purchased land and some pre-owned Town land), including trail development and other work, as our CC's top priority.

The acreage of land to discuss with a forester was brought up: will we limit it to the Smith and Cline properties, or include Town acreage, which we estimate to be 50-70 acres? Would the Select Board be amenable to a forester assessing all the land? Sondra said that the question of how much land to be added to the Smith/Cline parcel will need to be decided at a Town Meeting, potentially a special Town Meeting.

- b. Update on Community Resilience Committee. Deferred to next meeting.
- c. Update on greenhouse gas project. Deferred to next meeting.

#### **V. New Business.**

- a. Plans for fall roadside cleanup day. The date will be Saturday, October 14, 10AM-12 Noon. Linda Garat will create a new publicity poster and update the press release to be circulated.
- b. We discussed the Pine Tree Power presentation on September 29, at the Camden Hills Regional High School, co-sponsored by The Society of Fearless Grandmothers and the Sunrise Foundation. This is a component of conservation, and as such, it is not partisan for the STCC to recommend that our residents learn about the issue. Linda agreed to make copies of the *Take Back our Power!* PDF, and post them locally (GBC, Keag store, airport, etc.)

#### **VI. Correspondence.**

- a. Consideration of draft correspondence acknowledgement letter. Henry made a motion to accept the draft as presented by Leslie. It was seconded by Catherine, and the motion passed.

#### **VII. Items for next Agenda.** As listed above.

#### **VIII. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 5:58PM.

*STCC approved on October 11, 2023.*