**To: South Thomaston Residents and all Friends of Land Conservation**

**Regarding: Conservation Land Purchases Date: November 16, 2023**

All

The purpose of this email is two-fold.

First, it is to announce that the acquisition of approximately 129 acres of undeveloped forested land located adjacent to the Town of South Thomaston’s existing property at 125 Spruce Head Road has been completed. The second is to **seek donations** from residents and others to help offset some of the cost of the purchase price.

As you may be aware, voters at the June 2023 annual town meeting authorized these land purchases utilizing undesignated fund balance (surplus). The total purchase price was $67,000 or $519.38 per acre. The newly purchased property will remain undeveloped and used for conservation and low impact outdoor recreation, such as walking, cross country skiing, hunting and a variety of other activities.

The town meeting warrant articles authorizing these purchases also specified that the amount of fund balance used was to be reduced by any grant or donations that may be received. To that end, the Town's Conservation Commission is actively researching possible grant opportunities to help in this regard, including applying for a Land for Maine's Future grant in the upcoming funding cycle.

Any donation you could make, be it large or small would most appreciated. Donations made to the Town of South Thomaston are typically tax deductible, but you should always check with your tax preparer regarding your personal circumstances.

If you would like more information, please contact the Town Office at 596-6584 or Jeff Northgraves, Selectboard Chair at 542-5719 or Sondra Wallace, Conservation Commission Chair, at 593-8877.

Thanking you in advance.

South Thomaston Selectboard