



**Town of South Thomaston, Maine**  
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**Selectboard:**  
Jeff Northgraves  
Sue Snow  
John Spear

Conservation Commission Meeting, October 9, 2024  
In-Person Meeting at the Town Office, with Zoom Video Conferencing

STCC Commissioners present: Linda Garat, Catherine Lerme (by Zoom), Leslie Spear (for part of the Meeting; left before discussion of New Business, Item b. Travis Wilson Quarry), Sondra Wallace

STCC Commissioners not in attendance: John Poirier, Henry Spencer

STCC Associate Member present: Sally Merchant

**I. Call to Order.** Sondra Wallace, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

**II. Adjustments to Agenda.** None.

**III. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (August 14, 2024).** Not done.

**IV. Old Business**

- a. Fall Clean-Up Day Plans. The new date for the Clean-Up is October 12. This change is okay with Pennie Alley. Our main focus will still be on Buttermilk Lane. Henry will mark off sections of Buttermilk: A, B, C, D, so there are no wasted efforts by volunteers, or confusion as to which part of the road to tackle. Leslie informed the Transfer Station, and she and her truck will be available on Saturday. Linda Garat will send Hannah Moholland event information for the listserv e-distribution list, and will post flyers around town.
- b. Update on South Thomaston Forest Preserve. Sondra reported that the STCC received permission from the Select Board to work with a lawyer, Melissa Reynolds. Melissa is a sole practitioner with a great deal of experience in property issues. Sondra said that she and John Spear need to meet with Melissa, to focus on what needs to be addressed, and Catherine would like to join this meeting, whenever it is held. Sondra also stated that the LMF (*Land for Maine's Future*) recently touched base asking how the appraisal is going, although we need to get our title issues resolved first. She will get back to the LMF regarding how things currently stand.

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- c. Update on Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program. No report.
  - d. KCCC-WG November 23 Dark Sky program plans. Linda agreed to assist with the publicity efforts.
  - e. STCRC proposal: South Thomaston/St. George shared sustainability coordinator. Sondra received an email from Neil Cambridge of the Community Resilience Committee concurring that we have a mutual interest in this hire. She emphasized that the STCC needs more than that - we need to be at the table! Sally Merchant said that the CRC does not always have a quorum at its meetings, and that most of what the attendees want to discuss involves solar. Sondra will try to attend the next meeting on Friday, October 11.
  - f. Maine Coast Seafood. Sally, along with a number of Town residents, was present at a recent meeting about this. Photos taken by Select Board Member Sue Snow were shown. The looming environmental danger is the large amount of diesel fuel stored at Maine Coast Seafood, which must be siphoned before it gets into the water, and the debris/derelict building (a tear-down) on the property. Leslie said she believes the Town now has the legal right to go onto the property and clean up, then it would seek reimbursement from the owners for this effort. Questions remain as to what company could siphon off the fuel, and if it could be resold. Perhaps the Town can seize the land from the owners if a large enough tax lien is put on it.

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

- a. MEACC Annual Meeting, Brunswick, October 12. Sondra will attend.
- b. Travis Wilson Quarry. (NOTE: Leslie Spear left the meeting before this item was discussed. She is recused from STCC consideration of the matter, as a Member of the Board of Appeals, which may be asked to review it.) A discussion about this issue, and potential action on it, took place between Linda, Catherine, Sally, and Sondra. It was agreed that quarries reshape the landscape, leaving permanent changes to topography, water flows, biodiversity and wildlife, and contribute to carbon emissions through the use of heavy machinery, energy-intensive stone-processing, and the transportation of materials.

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

#### **VII. Items for next Agenda.**

**VIII. Adjourn.** Without objection, Sondra adjourned the meeting at 6:22PM.

***STCC approved on December 11, 2024***