

Hello,

There was a problem with the last email regarding the table which has been fixed, please see below

From the Select Board and the Conservation Commission

To our South Thomaston neighbors,

Many if you will remember that in the Fall of 2023 the Town of South Thomaston paid \$67,000 to acquire 134 forested acres adjoining the Town Lot (see Map). The Town bought 11 acres from Ralph Cline III, and the rest of the land from Jeff Smith. Jeff offered this land at a great bargain because the Town agreed to guarantee that the land would not be sold or developed. As he required, it would be maintained with a network of trails for conservation and recreation like hiking, hunting and birding. We have named it the **South Thomaston Forest Preserve**.

In Spring of 2024 the Town was provisionally approved for a Land for Maine's Future (LMF) grant to reimburse the Town the full \$67,000 purchase price as recognition for placing the land in conservation.

There are many requirements we must meet to secure the grant. Among them:

Property survey	Done, paid
Access road easement survey	Done, paid
Property appraisal	Needed, est. \$2,000
Title insurance	Needed, est. \$3,500
Environmental Hazard Assessment	Needed, est. \$3,500
10-year Forest Management Plan	Done, cost. \$3,100
Attorney fees	Ongoing, est. \$1,000

Most of the work completed has been paid for by a grant and donations totaling just under \$18,000, for which we are most grateful.

The remaining requirements will cost an estimated \$15,000. If you can help cover these costs, your donation in any amount, large or small, would be most welcome.

Our goal is to have the Town of South Thomaston richer by 134 conservation acres at little or no starting cost to the Town. Looking ahead, we will explore public-private financing

options for trail development, repair/rebuilding of the access road, removal of invasives and restoration of native species, and other ongoing maintenance.

South Thomaston is being recognized and rewarded by the State of Maine for preserving part of our local forest for wildlife, plants, people and the health of our community. Please help us secure this award by donating what you can.

Donations made to the Town of South Thomaston are generally tax deductible, but you should always check with your tax adviser regarding your personal circumstances.

If you would like more information, please contact John Spear, Selectboard Chair (john@souththomaston.me) or Sondra Wallace, Conservation Commission Chair, at conservationcommission@souththomaston.me.