



TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND

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CAKLE HILL PRESERVE SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

In 2007, the Town and Suffolk County jointly purchased 17.1 acres of wooded open space off Stearns Point Road from the Pike family. The Town purchased this property using Community Preservation Funds. The property is SCTM 0700-013-02-036.

Intentions

The property was originally a 26 acre parcel, which was subdivided so that the Town and County acquired the wooded 17.1 acres to the north, while 9 acres to the south were sold as residential (see attached diagram).

The Peconic Land Trust prepared a Baseline Documentation Report for the Town/County acquisition, which is a useful reference for the property condition in 2007.

Name

The property will be called "Cackle Hill Preserve" (formerly owned by Pike) and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material. The only entrance to the property shall be from the south side of Stearns Point Road, at the existing path on the northeast corner of the property, and shall be marked with a Town/County ownership plaque.

Improvements

The property is unimproved. It is wooded, but there are a number of areas in the southwestern corner with extensive encroachment by vines and undergrowth.

Management

The property will need minimal maintenance. A budget of \$500 for the initial cleanup and clearing is approved. When practicable, invasive vegetation shall be removed pursuant to Town policy. Any associated costs in excess of \$500 will result in an amendment of this plan.

The property will be left in its current state, to act as open space, habitat for animals and for stormwater recharge. A portion of the southwest section is currently overgrown with invasive, non-native vegetation which should be addressed as provided above. Trail maintenance and/or clearing of invasive plants could be conducted by volunteer groups, subject to the Town's approval.

Public Access and Signage

Public access will be permitted on the northerly side of the property from Stearns Point Road. There is a path on the northeast section of the property. This provides good walking access to the center of the property, and parking is adjacent to that path on the shoulder of Stearns Point Road. The Town will erect the standard Town/County Community Preservation Fund signage on the property at the southerly side of Stearns Point Road and a bronze plaque mounted on a rock. No vehicular traffic will be allowed, except Town approved maintenance vehicles.

Measures to Protect Ecology

The Town will manage the property to protect the ecology of this property. Specifically:

- (1) Birds: no particular action will be taken except to avoid use of pesticides or chemicals which could harm them.
- (ii) Animals: The property will be left in an undisturbed state as a habitat for plants and animals. No hunting or trapping is allowed unless permitted by the Town, and the property will be posted as such.
- (iii) Woodcutting is prohibited.

The Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board will prepare an annual report to the Town Board of expenditures from the Community Preservation Fund for stewardship of this property.