

Adopted 2/1/13

**TURKEM'S REST PRESERVE
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK
STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Introduction

In 2006, the Town and County jointly purchased 5.99 acres of open space on South Midway Road, opposite Dickerson Creek, formerly the Sposato Property. The parcel is bordered by Fresh Pond on the North and by South Midway Road on the South. It is currently bordered on the East and West sides by the Robb and Eklund families, respectively. It is Suffolk County Tax Map 0700-23-01-29.

Approximately 40% of the property is tidal wetland consisting of spartina grass and other vegetation found in our Island's wetlands. The remaining portion is upland woods and consists mainly of wild cherry, oak and black locust trees. The area close to Fresh Pond shows signs of a structure, thought to have been an ice house.

The previous owners commissioned an archaeological survey in 1999. The survey concluded that aboriginal populations lived on or near the site from 500-1500 .A.D. The survey found and cataloged evidence of such habitation. A Native American, "The Turkey Man", was known to have lived in this area, hence the Turkem's Neck name for the area bordering the western side of Dickerson Creek and now for the "Turkem's Rest" name for this property.

Intentions

The property was purchased by the Town and County to protect the sensitive waters of Fresh Pond and the tidal areas around Dickerson Creek by eliminating the potential for septic system damage, providing an undisturbed recharge for freshwater for the fragile Fresh Pond watershed, and to protect the tidal marsh to the South.

The property provides a diversity of habitat, has fragile salt and brackish water wetlands, frontage on Fresh Pond, presents sensitive archaeological issues and it should be kept natural. During storms and times of exceptionally high tides, Dickerson Creek may flood over Midway Road and flood all of the low lying areas of the property.

Name

The property will be called "Turkem's Rest Preserve" and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material.

Improvements

There are no improvements on this property.

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.

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Presently, there is a partially collapsed culvert to the East of the property, (not on the property) and running under Midway Road. The ebb and flow of tidal waters from Dickerson Creek via this culvert is important for the health of the wetlands on this property and the Town shall maintain this culvert on an ongoing basis to insure and maximize the tidal flow. Some remedial work to open this culvert should be done by the Town as soon as possible.

Public Access and Signage

A small pedestrian path entrance on the south side of the property shall be cleared and maintained, but no special markings shall be posted. Because of the sensitive wetlands in this area, the respect for the surrounding private property owners, the potential for archaeological theft and the need to protect Fresh Pond's ecology we need to designate the public access to this property to protect these areas and provide signage notifying the public of these protections. Parking is to be limited to the shoulder on the north side of South Midway Road where there is space for 2 or 3 cars.

The Town will erect the standard Town/County Community Preservation Fund signage on the property and a bronze plaque mounted on a rock at the southerly side of the property near South Midway Road.

Measures to Protect Ecology

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

- (i) Birds: no particular action will be taken except to preserve the wetlands to encourage diversity.
- (ii) Animals: Hunting, as permitted and managed by the Town may be allowed. There shall be no trapping allowed.
- (iii) Wetlands: All wetlands shall be left undisturbed.
- (iv) Maintain Tidal Flow: The culvert under South Midway road connecting the marsh areas to Dickerson Creek shall be kept open and running free to maximize the tidal flow into the marsh.
- (v) Access to Fresh Pond: Pedestrian traffic to Fresh Pond shall be permitted.
- (vi) Archaeology: Unless specific permission is granted by the Town Board, no archaeological activity shall be allowed on this property.
- (vii) Wood cutting shall be prohibited.

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

Below is a survey of the property:

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