

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
(914) 277-4977
Fax
(914) 276-0082

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2012

Chair Emil Antonaccio opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Somers Architectural Review Board Member Mark Brown, Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Jim Papa, resident Architect Ken Bond and Town Historian Doris Jane Smith were present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Bond and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2011 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wright-Reis Homestead

Summer Kitchen – The Summer Kitchen needs to be taped and painted. The Historical Society has purchased the supplies and details regarding the project will be provided to the Supervisor so that Mr. Stole can complete this work when the weather gets warmer.

Ice House – The floor of the Ice House needs to be removed and the area filled to grade; masonry work needs to be done on the foundation; and the floor replaced. Mr. Antonaccio and Mr. Bond will meet to write up specifications for this project.

Fallen Limb – During the snowstorm in October, a large limb broke and was leaning on the roof of one of the barns. Supervisor Murphy gave approval to spend \$325 to have it removed by Abcut Tree Service. The Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff will remove the debris.

Roadway – The roadway needs to be chipped and graded. Mr. Papa will see if the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff can take care of this.

Broken Attic Windows – There were four broken windows in the attic of the Homestead that were replaced by Mr. Stole.

Birdhouse – The birdhouse that was at the Homestead rotted to disrepair and had to be removed. An offer was made by the Heritage Hills Woodworking Club to build a replica.

Pond – Quite a while ago, a discussion ensued about rebuilding the dam in the pond at the Homestead. At that time there was also running water coming into the pond. It is now all dried up. All were asked to think about what could be done with the pond.

Marshall Descendants – Plans are underway for descendants of the Marshall family to visit the Museum and meet the new Town Historian in April.

Mt. Zion Church

There was no report this month.

Tomahawk Chapel

Change Lock on Chapel Door – For security purposes, a motion was made by Mr. Papa and seconded by Mr. Bond to change the lock on the door of the Chapel over the next few weeks. All were in favor.

A thank you letter will be sent to the Koegel Foundation for electrifying the Chapel and they will be reminded to remove any supplies, tools, etc. that they may have left in the Chapel before the lock is changed.

Elephant Hotel

Old Bet Statue Eagle Scout Project – Supervisor Murphy was approached by a resident Boy Scout about doing an Eagle Scout project around the Old Bet Statue. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

Route 202 Water Trough – A letter was received from the Somers Chamber of Commerce about their interest in moving the water trough on Route 202 to Bailey Park. Mrs. Schirmer will research the owner of the property where it is located. If the owner approves moving the trough, the Parks and Recreation Board will have to give their okay to place it in Bailey Park and a recommendation made to the Town Board.

Town Historian Report

In May, a History major and Mahopac resident will be doing an internship on the Civil War graves in Town.

A few years ago, a Heritage Hills resident had photographed two brothers in front of the Elephant Hotel in their scout uniforms. A painting was done from the photograph and it was donated to the Historical Society. The brothers were recognized and a decision was made to give them the painting. The artist agreed and it was presented at their scout meeting.

On Monday, February 20, the Society will sponsor "A Night at the Museum" for children.

Longtime resident William B. Johnson was the owner of the first African-American Harley Davidson Dealer, located in the Somers Business Historic Preservation District. Recently his grandson donated items from his shop to the Historical Society and some of those items are now on loan at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Wisconsin. Later on in the year, an exhibit will be done in the Somers Museum to honor Mr. Johnson.

Somers Historical Society Report

A copy of the Society's newsletter will be mailed to all Historic Properties Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Somers Historical Society