

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

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**Town of Somers**  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589

EMIL ANTONACCIO  
CHAIRMAN



**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 16, 2012**

Chair Emil Antonaccio opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Architectural Review Board Member Mark Brown, 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. Papa and seconded by Mr. Bond to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2012 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

**Mt. Zion Church**

**Tree Damage** – There was some recent tree damage due to the storms. The Parks and Recreation Maintenance staff removed the debris.

**Fire Extinguishers** – There are two fire extinguishers in the Church that have not been serviced since 2006. Mrs. Schirmer has been in contact with Haight Fire Equipment and they will be inspecting them shortly.

**Tomahawk Chapel**

**National Register of Historic Places Plaque** – Mrs. Schirmer contacted the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to make arrangements to get a plaque for the Chapel recognizing its National Register of Historic Places designation.

**Fire Alarm** – At the request of the Board, Mrs. Schirmer secured a proposal from CIA Security to install a fire alarm in the Chapel. All agreed it was quite costly. Mrs.

Schirmer will secure quotes from ADT Security Services, Slomin's Security Systems and Somers Security for the next meeting.

**Fire Extinguisher** – A fire extinguisher is needed for the Chapel. Mrs. Schirmer has been in contact with Haight Fire Equipment and they will be providing one that they will also inspect yearly.

**Tree Damage** – There was some recent tree damage due to the storms. The Parks and Recreation Maintenance staff was able to remove some of the debris. There is a broken tree trunk about 20 feet up in one of the trees. Lincolndale Landscaping gave an estimate of \$100 to remove it. A motion was made by Mr. Papa and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the proposal by Lincolndale Landscaping to remove the broken tree trunk. All were in favor.

**Grounds** – The grounds are being inspected every other week. All looks good. The grass continues to be mowed by the neighbor and someone has been weeding.

**Electric** – An electric service has been installed. It has not yet been activated.

**Collections** – The collections that were in the Chapel have been removed and accessioned by the Somers Historical Society Archives and Collections Committee.

**New Lock** – A new lock has been placed on the Chapel door and the only key is at the Town House.

**Equipment/Supplies** – Some equipment that was being stored inside the Chapel has been returned to its owner, and some supplies, as well as a bag of garbage were removed.

### **Wright-Reis Homestead**

**Pest Management** – On July 13, JP McHale Pest Management conducted one of three yearly pest management applications.

**Vandalism** – There has been some minor vandalism to the Homestead. Someone smeared soda all over the front porch and left their debris, and one of the storm windows was broken. A police report was filed and they will patrol the area on a more regular basis. The porch light is on a timer and goes on at dusk.

**Water Damage** – Evidently the toilet in the bathroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor had a drip that was going beneath the floor. It was collecting and collapsed the ceiling in the back of the hallway on the main floor. The most significant amount of damage was to the ceiling, but there was also some water damage to the wall and some of Carolyn Wright-Reis' watercolors were damaged. An insurance adjuster came and they made arrangements to have someone come in to clean and dry out the area. The Somers Historical Society Archives and Collections Committee dried out the watercolors and are making

arrangements to have them rematted and reframed. Mr. Antonaccio will call Paul Gregus to see if he can give him a quote to tape and paint the ceiling and hallway.

**Ice House** – Two proposals were received to repair the Ice House, one for \$28,600 and the other for \$10,500. A telephone vote was taken and all were in favor. At their August 9 meeting, the Town Board awarded the bid to Salem Preservation at a cost of \$10,500. The contract will be signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August and the work will commence shortly thereafter.

**Well** – A draw down test was done on the well a while ago and ever since, there is mud in the well. Mr. Antonaccio would like to make arrangements to have PF Beal and Sons do an assessment. It is the hope that they can simply raise the pump to get it out of the mud and double check the seal on top. A motion was made by Mr. Papa and seconded by Mr. Bond to spend no more than \$1,500 to resolve the issue. All were in favor.

**Tree Damage** – There was some recent tree damage due to the storms. The Parks and Recreation Maintenance staff removed the debris.

**Fire Extinguisher** – There is a fire extinguisher in the Homestead that has not been serviced since 2006. Mrs. Schirmer has been in contact with Haight Fire Equipment and they will be inspecting it shortly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Maintenance and Capital Projects Building and Grounds Inventory** – In an attempt to create a maintenance and capital projects schedule for all Town owned buildings, Supervisor Murphy asked Mrs. Schirmer to provide her a list of repairs, work, etc. and dates when completed, for the Chapel, Church and Homestead. Mr. Antonaccio and Mr. Bond will create a timeline as to when the next cycle of work has to be done on these three buildings.

**2013 Budget** – A preliminary budget was prepared and presented. There were no increases. All paperwork has to be submitted to the Supervisor tomorrow. The Budget Hearings will take place on October 23, 24 and 25 starting at 5 p.m. Providing the figures remain as submitted, the Wright-Reis Homestead needs to be painted next year. If the total is under \$35,000, if possible, three quotes will have to be ascertained. The last time the building was painted was in 2003 and the total cost was \$11,500.

## **Town Historian Report**

Resident Jo Pitkin wrote a book of poetry *Cradle of the American Circus*. Many of the photographs in the book are from the Somers Historical Society's collections. A book signing was held last Sunday with over 50 books sold. Mrs. Smith has been keeping extremely busy with genealogy requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 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