

**SOMERS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589**

MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2009

Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chair Michael Barnhart, Jan Antonucci, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting as submitted. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve

Opening - About 50 people attended the Opening of Angle Fly Preserve on Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 a.m. Thankfully it did not rain. The official address for those who want to search for directions to the Preserve is 49 Primrose Street (Route 139), Katonah, NY 10536.

Press Update - Both the Journal News and the North County News covered the Opening of Angle Fly Preserve.

Security Issues - The hasp on the basement door lock was removed and the lock on the barn that the Lion's Club uses was broken. It didn't appear that anything was taken. Both the hasp and locks have been replaced by the Parks and Recreation Department. All agreed that a caretaker is needed on the property as soon as possible. The Town Police have been asked to patrol the Preserve regularly. All Board members will be issued a key to the gate at Angle Fly. It should be locked at dusk. If anyone drives by past dusk and notices that it is open, they should lock it. Since Mrs. Simpson lives closest to the Preserve, Ms. Jones gave Mrs. Simpson her key. There is an issue about locking up on Sundays. Mr. Barnhart will speak to Mr. Ralston about this.

Final Work Projects and Work Days - A list of projects that need to be done has been created. It includes work on the rock walls, planking completion, vine removal, path around the pond, chipping around the blueberry bushes and a holding area for plants. The last two work days planned for the year are October 24 and November 8 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates

There were no updates this evening.

Biodiversity Assessment

The next two meetings are set for November 12 and December 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Mrs. Antonucci's house. In an effort to complete this project in order to use this information as part of the Master Plan Update, a suggestion was made to have full day sessions in January. This will be discussed again in November.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Easement List - The Town Planner provided the Committee with a Conservation Easement List. The Committee would still like to know who the easement holders are in an effort to determine the conservation potential for each property, and also would like a list of the vacant Town owned properties. A memo with the current list attached was sent to Sabrina Charney-Hull. An update will be requested.

St. Joseph's Church at JFK H.S. - The Committee recommended Cape Cod curbing and inclusion of Klemen's publication on best development practices especially in regard to storm water systems and the threat they present to amphibians and turtles. These items will be mentioned at the October 21 Planning Board meeting. Mr. Barnhart has ordered a copy of Klemen's publication for the Town Planner.

Hunting - Another meeting is scheduled for October 30 regarding the hunting requirements at Angle Fly Preserve. DEC's Bill Rudge has resisted bow hunting only for turkey. He passed this by the Sportsman Representative on the DEC's advisory committee and he would like turkey hunting with a gun permitted as well. This topic will be discussed at the meeting. If necessary, another strategy will be explored.

NY/NJ Trails Conference - The NY/NJ Trails Conference still has to execute their deliverables as part of their contract with the Town. Ms. Ferguson has left the NY/NJ Trails Conference Mr. Barnhart will meet with the her replacement to discuss what has yet to be completed.

Naming Resolution & Parking Lot - A letter was sent to the Town Supervisor requesting that the yellow trail loop be named after the late Peter Burckmyer. Mr. Burckmyer was one of the original members of the Somers Land Trust and also a member of the Open Space Committee. A request to name the yet-to-be constructed bridge over the Angle Fly in honor of the late John Behler was also made. Mr. Behler was a renowned herpetologist and Conservation Board member who also worked hard to support the purchase of Angle Fly Preserve.

Permission was also requested to use the existing parking lot at Angle Fly rather than construct a new one.

NEW BUSINESS

Roadway Names - In an effort to reduce confusion, and also give direction in the case of an emergency, it has been recommended that the roadway leading to the condos be named Reynolds Road, and the one leading to the Tatham House be called Tatham Lane. Arrangements can be made to make the signs out of wood with white lettering to be consistent with the other signs in the Preserve. A memo will be sent to the Town Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Open Space Committee

cc: Open Space Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk
Conservation Board
Planning and Engineering
Parks and Recreation