

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2011

Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Bob Mac Gregor.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Mac Gregor to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

February Trails Conference Meeting – A trails conference meeting will be held on February 8 in Mohegan Lake. There will be representation from the local nature conservancies/preserves, etc. Mr. Barnhart and Mac Gregor will attend on behalf of Angle Fly.

State of the Environment Conference - Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones attended the State of the Environment Conference at Hotel Thayer in West Point. It was quite a success. Mr. Barnhart's presentation and Ms. Jones' Power Point presentation went very well. We are now building a presentation library that can be reused.

ELLA Stream Project - As part of the ELLA initiated stream project that the Somers Land Trust has become involved in, Brendan Murphy of the Watershed Agricultural Council contacted the Somers Land Trust to begin planning a Tree for Tributaries project. WAC will supply trees, tree tubes and tools to drill the holes, if SLT supplies the labor to plant the trees. The trees will be planted by Tatham Brook. All agreed that the Board cannot commit to any more projects at the moment. Mr. Barnhart will speak to Mr. Murphy about this. If they want to handle it, that is fine, but we need to know what their commitment will be before it is signed off on.

Angle Fly Preserve Workday Updates and Planning – The upcoming workdays are as follows: February 26, March 13 & 19, April 3 & 16, and May 7 & 22. They have been posted on all the kiosks. Additional volunteers are needed to help. Mr. Mac Gregor will talk to some community groups about our needs and Mrs. Schirmer will put the information in the newspapers, Pennysaver, on the

Town website and television character generator.

Projects to be completed include:

Angle Fly Bridge – install footings and bridge

Green Trail – install planking, 3 low bridges and Route 100 step access

Blue Trail Extension – from yellow trail to Angle Fly Brook dam, along pine trees and up hill to the AT&T right of way

Red Loop Trail Section – from Angle Fly Brook bridge parallel to brook connecting to blue trail. From Angle Fly Brook bridge up hill to AT&T right of way.

Yellow Trail Extension – move trail off road by crossing Reynolds Run following a line east (north of condos), follow Tatham Book south then west to the deer enclosure, around the parking lot and connecting with the existing yellow trail.

White Trail – connect with the blue trail by the Reynolds barn and follow a line west up the hill crossing Tatham Trail and pass east of the Tatham/Orvis house and garage along the ridge line. Cross the AT&T right of way and curve around the meadow back to the AT&T right of way. Continue along the west side of the pool building and follow south and connect the blue trail.

Blue Trail Extension – from the AT&T right of way through the DEP property to Route 35 opposite Lasdon Park

Red Trail Loop – from AT&T right of way through the DEP property

Red and White Interior Trail Loop – located inside the red loop trail

Pink Trail – connect blue trail to Route 35 parking area

Composting Toilet A – located next to parking area

Composting Toilet B – located in the Reynolds Barn area

Main Kiosk Boards (4) – main entrance, parking area, Reis Park, Route 35 entrance point, Hill Top Road parking area

Trail Head Kiosk Boards (10) – Plumbrook Road, Plumbrook parking area, Route 139 Blue Trail, Tatham Trail Road, Adams Farm Road, Yellow Trail and Reynolds Run, Route 35 parking area, Route 100 access point, White Trail at AT&T crossing and Reynolds Run handicap trail access.

Trail Directional Signs (100)

Tatham/Orvis garage – clean up for safety and refurbish

Reynolds House – rebuild

Reynolds Pond – planting

Tree and vine removal

Blue Stem Meadow Restoration – Rod Christie has offered to help take down some of the pine trees and other vegetation that is taking over the Blue Stem Meadow. Mr. Barnhart will make arrangements to have that done before the spring.

Hunting Report - Bob Mendoza emailed all Board members a hunting report for the fall 2010 turkey/deer season. As requested, a listing of wildlife seen at Angle Fly was included. Among the sightings were a bob cat and eagle. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the spring turkey season.

Biodiversity Mapping- The Committee met on December 1. The area around Angle Fly still has to be mapped. Over the next few weeks, Mr. Barnhart will finish the worksheets. Hopefully arrangements can be made to have Hudsonia conduct a field verification visit. The next mapping meeting will be held on March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

Town Planner 2010 Status Report – All received a copy of the Town Planner’s 2010 Status Report via email. It was noted that many of the projects have either stopped or requested an extension.

Plan for Proceeding on “Long-Term Interest” Properties – A plan is needed moving forward on how to proceed with the “long-term interest” properties in Town, such as IBM, Pepsi, Lincoln Hall, Stonewall Farms, etc. A few of these properties are now leased to the former owners. Many changes have occurred within the Westchester Land Trust organization, and it may be time to revisit arrangements relating to present and future conservation easements in Somers.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakeview Terrace Paper Road – A memo dated December 16, 2010 from Steve Woelfle, Town Principle Engineering Technician regarding a request to convey a paper right of way for Lakeview Terrace was received for review and comment. It is a bit unclear as to what the intention of the adjoining owners really is. If they simply want to remove the trees that have fallen or threatened their house, that is fine. The Open Space Committee would not be in favor any further tree removals on the paper-road property. A memo will be sent to Mr. Woelfle.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17 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