

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BARNHART
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson and Rosey VanWart.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

Phase 1 of the Reynolds Pond Garden for the Mickey Oliver Native Habitat Restoration Area was completed. Over two days, nineteen volunteers planted and mulched more than 600 native plants, representing 85 different varieties. Since the planting took place, volunteers have been watering the plants when there has not been any rain. Pictures of each section of the garden were taken, enlarged and used as a map to mark the location of each of the 600 plants. These plant maps will be used to place plant identification markers that will correspond with a master plant list that will be posted on the kiosk.

The hunting program started October 1 with 92 hunters qualified and permitted to hunt. So far there have been a number of hunters on the property and in the first few days, two does, were taken.

The bog bridging Boy Scout project on the Orange Trail has been completed. Invasive plants were removed and about 100 feet of bridging installed.

Trail maintenance was done on the Red Trail, Red and White Trail, Green Trail, White Trail and Pink and White Trail. Japanese stilt grass is a major problem because it grows so fast and can cover an area in a few weeks. Some mile-a-minute weed was removed.

The blazes on the Yellow Trail and the north section of the White Trail have been re-painted.

Publicity and planning for the SWARM on November 1 (rain date: November 8) is underway. The first article has been published in The Somers Record. Posters have been made and are being posted on community bulletin boards. The three Boy Scout groups in town (Troops 228, 376 and the Venturing Crew 1104) will promote the SWARM at their meetings. The Lions Club and Somers Women's Club have been briefed on the SWARM as well. The poster will be posted on the town TV channel. The poster and reminders will be sent to the SLT membership and Steve Ralston will send it to the hunters and other e-mail groups. The area of focus is the area at the entrance, south along Route 139 and the north section of the White Trail. Fourteen sections have been identified, all within 1/3 of a mile from the entrance. Maps have been made for each section for the team leader and section markers will be posted to identify the section area.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Mapping – On October 3, a mapping meeting was held, and another one will be held tomorrow. The last big sheet is almost complete with one small sheet left to do. Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia will be reviewing all maps when the project is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

AT&T Mobility, LLC – c/o Bechtel – Heritage Hills – The Site Plan, Steep Slope Permit, and SMESC Application for AT&T Mobility, LLC – c/o Bechtel – Heritage Hills were reviewed and discussed. There were no issues or concerns with the Plan, Permit or Application. However, the Short EAF indicates that a Tree Removal Permit will be required, yet there was neither an application nor supporting information included in the packet. In addition, there was no list of the type of trees or numbers to be removed in the plans provided. Without such information, the Committee cannot comment on the adequacy of the application. A memo will be sent to the Planning and Engineering Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 20 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
Planning Board
Parks and Recreation Board