

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

November 17, 2011

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

Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy and Somers Land Trust Board member David Gotz were also present.

Mrs. VanWart was congratulated for being appointed by the Town Board to the Somers Open Space Committee.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

ANGLE FLY PRESERVE & SOMERS LAND TRUST UPDATES:

Work Days and Angle Fly Preserve Updates – Congresswoman Nan Hayworth attended the last workday and all agreed that it was a good, positive day. Mr. MacGregor prepared a Project Activity Summary: January 2009 to October 2011 for the Angle Fly Preserve to present to her. All agreed that he did an excellent job on this document and it should be distributed to the Town Board, the Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and the NYS

Department of Environmental Conservation. Extra copies should be available as well. A motion was made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Barnhart to have bound color copies made. All were in favor.

Work days will begin again in March.

The Recreational Trails Grant has to be closed out by the end of the year. Remaining monies will be used for maps, wood for planking, gravel and safety equipment.

Volunteer worksheets are complete and just need signatures.

To date, 17 deer have been taken, 3 bucks and 14 does.

One of the hunters sighted a female bobcat, last year a male was seen.

The composting toilets have been installed, and there are a few minor things that have to be done to them. Landscaping around them will take place in the spring.

There are three volunteers in particular who have done a terrific amount of work at Angle Fly. They (David George, Mike Lubchenko and John Petroccione) will be acknowledged with certificates at the Annual Meeting.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection permit to cut the trails on their portion of the property has been received. They still have to approve signage, the kiosk and plans for the bridge on the southern portion of the property.

Work continues on the final list of all the projects done at Angle Fly to be transferred over to the Town by the end of the year.

On November 22, Mr. MacGregor will be meeting with the Somers High School Environmental Sciences classes to review the environmental presentations they created as a class project.

A Girl Scout Gold Award project has been proposed. The teen would like to offer native trees and shrubs to the community to purchase and have planted at Angle Fly in memory of someone. The forester will be consulted about this project and the Scout will be working with a local nursery. All agreed this opportunity should be announced in the newsletter and a press release should be sent to the local papers, including the Somers Record and Daily Somers. It was also suggested that membership and/or a donation to the Somers Land Trust be included as part of the offering.

BIODIVERSITY MAPPING

All of the maps have been organized in binders and the group will meet again after the holidays.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Board Status – The potential elimination of the Conservation Board in the 2012 Budget and its ramifications, with a possible extension of the Open Space Committee's duties, at least temporarily, were discussed.

2012 Budget – The 2012 Budget was approved as submitted in the Town Board's Preliminary Budget.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 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
Town Planner
Parks and Recreation Board
Planning Board