

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**November 18, 2010**

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

Mr. Barnhart welcomed new Committee member Mr. Roveto.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Mac Gregor to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Barnhart seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**NY/NJ Trails Conference Meeting** - Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor met with Leigh Drapper, Eastern Hudson representative of the NY/NJ Trails Conference on October 22 to discuss a trail building training program at Angle Fly Preserve. Those who are trained, can train others.

**ELLA Conference** - Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones have been working on a Power Point presentation on the theme of partnerships for the NYS State of the Environment Conference this weekend at Hotel Thayer in West Point. Mr. Barnhart will also be leading a walk on Storm King Mountain. Mr. Barnhart shared a rendition of the proposed Storm King plant as it appeared in Con Edison's 1963 annual report.

**Angle Fly Preserve Workday Updates and Planning** - This Saturday marks the last workday of the year. Work will continue on the green trail loop, which is about 65% complete. Once done, 4 ½ miles of trail will have been blazed.

Still to be done are the red trail loop, which is on DEP property and shouldn't be too difficult, as a lot of it was a logging road.

There is a lot of dense barberry on the blue trail loop that connects with the AT&T right of way, which will prove to be a tougher project. That trail is a little less than 3 miles.

The foot bridge has been ordered and should be delivered at the end of

December or early January. As soon as it arrives, arrangements will be made to schedule a weekend long work day so that it can be assembled and placed.

The composting toilet will be the next project that Mr. Mac Gregor will be working on.

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, and a planning meeting with Brendan is scheduled for December 13.

Resident Girl Scout Emily Enoch is completing her Gold Award at Angle Fly Preserve. She will be interpreting the yellow trail. Mrs. Van Wart has been coordinating the project with her. Plans are underway for 6 to 8 stations that identify important features along the trail. The stations will have hinged tops with lettering and a description with a picture underneath that is covered with Plexiglas. Ms. Jones will assist with the signage design.

John Dunstan has finished his deer enclosure Eagle Scout project and another Boy Scout is in the process of getting approval to build a rain barrel and rain garden. Mr. Mac Gregor will be making a presentation at an upcoming Leaders Round Table to discuss other projects that need to be done at Angle Fly.

In addition to Scouts, Community Groups and school students can complete needed projects at Angle Fly. Mr. Barnhart will draft a letter to the new School Superintendent with regard to this issue.

All agreed that in the spring, arrangements should be made to invite all the Town sponsored Boards and Committees, as well as the employees to Angle Fly Preserve.

**Angle Fly Preserve Hunting Update** - Bow hunting is going well and will continue until December 31. There have not been as many hunters as originally anticipated. As of the last work day, eleven deer had been taken. There have not been any complaints and the hunters are pleased with the way things are running. Mr. Mendoza was thanked for all of his efforts in overseeing this program.

Mr. Mac Gregor shared some statistics about deer: 77,582 deer have been hit by cars in New York and the estimate in damage is \$260 million. New York is number three in terms of the number of deer hit by cars, preceded by Pennsylvania and Michigan respectively.

**Biodiversity Mapping Update** - The Committee will meet again on December 1.

Ms. Jones developed a chart of work that has been done to date and what is left to do. By the spring, field visits will be ready to be conducted.

### **Planning and Conservation Board Updates**

There was nothing new to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Reynolds House** - Councilman Clinchy was able to make arrangements to have the Town Engineering Consultant Joe Barbagallo visit Angle Fly Preserve to determine whether or not a septic system could be installed. It can in fact be installed which enables the Somers Land Trust to move forward to the next step of securing an architect to prepare plans for the rebuild of the Reynolds House. A memo was forwarded to the Architectural Review Board asking for assistance regarding architectural plans and input. Unfortunately at this time, none of the members has enough time to dedicate to this type of project. Supervisor Murphy was also given an update memo.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 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  
Conservation Board  
Planning and Engineering  
Parks and Recreation