

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**November 19, 2009**

Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 9:45 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chair Michael Barnhart, Jan Antonucci, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Jones to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**Angle Fly Preserve**

**Hunting** - Another meeting was held on October 29 regarding the hunting requirements at Angle Fly Preserve. Representatives of the DEC Sportsman Association were in attendance. This section of the Management Plan has been rewritten to reflect the hunting requirements. All thanked Mr. Barnhart for his hard work and effort. A Hunting Committee has been formed and they will meet on December 2, at 3:00 p.m. Members of that Committee include: Michael Barnhart; Rick Morrissey; Rod Christie; Doug Erickson; Damon Oscarson; Somers Town Policeman Richie Baker; DEC Sportsmen representatives Thom Newman and John Peters; Town resident Bob Mendoza, and DEP Recreation Manager John Staby.

**Invasive Plant Project** - Forester Andy Hubbard has made an assessment of the forest at Angle Fly Preserve. He will continue to work with us on a regular basis. He has suggested closing down Angle Fly Preserve for two weeks to increase the deer take during hunting in order to control numbers and decrease the damage to the forested areas. The public has to be educated about this situation and a Deer Management Plan created. In addition, he assisted the Somers Land Trust in applying for a \$669.50 grant available through the Watershed Agricultural Council for invasive plant management and removal.

**Management Plan** - Once the hunting revisions are completed, they will be added to the Management Plan and approval by the Town Board will be requested.

## **Somers Land Trust**

**Work Days and Projects Coordination** - Dates have been set for work days in 2010. They are as follows: February 20, March 20 and April 10. Mr. Mac Gregor will come up with a list of projects that have to be done. Removal of invasives will be priority.

## **Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates**

**Meeting with Town Planner** - A request of the Town Planner will be made to meet with her at the January meeting. Topics of discussion include: Incorporating the Biodiversity Plan into the Master Plan Update; the idea of a Concept Committee; a Conservation Easement List, and Lincoln Hall. Mrs. Schirmer will make the arrangements.

Mr. Barnhart has supplied Mrs. Charney-Hull with a copy of Michael Klemen's publication "Best Development Practices: Conserving Pool-Breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments in the Northeastern United States."

## **Mapping Update**

Ms. Jones presented the Committee with a status update on the Biodiversity Mapping Project. There is still some work that needs to be done, which will resume next year.

## **Committee Vacancies**

Mr. Morrissey will be resigning effective December 31, as he won the Town Councilman election. Mr. Barnhart will speak to the Town Supervisor about securing a replacement for him.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Roadway Names** - In an effort to reduce confusion, and also give direction in the case of an emergency, it was 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 was sent to the Town Board for approval. They in turn, sent a request to other Boards/Committees for comment.

**Resolutions** - The Town Board passed three resolutions as requested by the Somers Land Trust to: Dedicate the new yellow trail at Angle Fly Preserve in memory of Peter Burckmyer; dedicate the yet to be built foot bridge at Angle Fly Preserve in memory of John Behler, and defer construction of a parking lot at Angle Fly Preserve until a future date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House. The Committee will not meet in December.

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