

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 20, 2014

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

On November 1, 2014 the Somers Land Trust/Sawmill River Coalition/Ground Works Hudson Valley vine cutting SWARM was held at the Angle Fly Preserve. Weather was an issue impacting attendance. Fifty four volunteers participated in the event. Forty three were from Somers and eleven from Croton, Hastings, NYC, Albany and other area communities. Five teams spent a total of 155 hours cutting vines on five hundred trees on twelve acres of the Preserve. There were community youth from the Scouts, Lions Leo's and Somers High School environmental science classes. Three articles were written and published in The Somers Record. Two of the articles were announcing the SWARM and one was the SWARM results. SWARM publicity was done at the Fall Festival and the Trail of Terror at Reis Park.

A Scout completed a natural wood bench that was installed on the blue trail south of Reynolds Pond overlooking the valley.

Two volunteer days were held, one focused on the clearing of trails and the second on vine cutting along Route 139.

The Somers Lions donated 225 spruce saplings that were planted between the pine forest blow down and the ATT right of way. Hundreds of new pine saplings have sprouted in the pine forest blow down area. The pine forest is re-generating its self.

A meeting was held with Supervisor Morrissey regarding the beaver dam removal that was done by the Town and the environmental impact this caused on the wetland. In the future the Town will consult with the Somers Land Trust before taking any environmental action in the Angle Fly Preserve.

Mr. MacGregor attended a Westchester Community College "Go Native U" "wetland field course that was conducted at the Angle Fly Preserve. The instructor plans to conduct other field courses at the Preserve.

The path in the memory forest tree planting project was re-mulched and a railing was installed leading down to the area.

Watering of the native plant garden continued for the month.

Mr. MacGregor attended a meadow restoration workshop at the native plant area at Westchester Community College.

The hunting program continues with an active group of hunters. October and the beginning of November produced limited results because of the warm weather.

Mr. MacGregor is writing an article for The Somers Record about wetlands and beavers versus humans.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Mapping – Arrangements will be made for a Biodiversity Mapping session in early December.

NEW BUSINESS

Naclerio Site Plan, Steep Slope, and SMESC Application – The Site Plan, Steep Slope Permit, and SMESC Application for Naclerio were reviewed and discussed. There were no issues or concerns with the Plan, Permit or Application. A memo will be sent to the Planning and Engineering Department.

Hidden Meadow at Somers – Copies of the Site Plan and Biodiversity Assessment Report were reviewed and discussed.

All were pleased that the previous suggestions made with regard to the Biodiversity Assessment Report were included in the final draft.

Concerning the Site Plan, the following comments were made and will be sent to the Planning and Engineering Department in the form of a memo:

The curb detail on Sheet D-1 does not resemble that of Cape Cod curving as it doesn't have a sloped face, but rather a steep one.

On Sheet SP-4, there is a temporary sediment trap. In this instance, the definition of temporary is important. In addition, this sediment trap should be avoided or eliminated, and something else should be used that will have minimal disturbance.

Additionally on Sheet SP-4, clarification on what the plans are for a conservation easement is requested.

Both Sheets SP-1 and TR-1 concern tree removal and replacement. Those that are to be replaced with evergreen trees as indicated on Sheet SP-1, should be left. Those referenced on TR-1 to be removed from the side adjacent to the Town's property should be left. Some of the other trees that are slated to be removed will result in eliminating the forested buffer. Therefore the recommendation is to leave them as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 15 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