

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

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2011

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting as submitted. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

DEP Permit Offer – A Permit Offer was received from the DEP and it has to be completed and returned within thirty days. Quite a bit of information is needed, but Mr. Barnhart has begun the process of doing so. It will have to be approved by the Town Board and a fee of \$25 has to be paid. A Stream Disturbance Permit will also have to be filed through the DEC.

NY/NJ Trails Conference Meeting – Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor attended the NY/NJ Trails Conference Meeting on February 8. The Somers Land Trust has been designated as a self sustaining partner with the NY/NJ Trails Conference, which is responsible for 1,800 miles of trails. They will provide chain saw training and certification, as well as other training classes. Attending this meeting provided a good networking opportunity.

ELLA Stream Project – Mr. Barnhart wrote up an application for the ELLA initiated stream project and sent it Brendan Murphy of the Watershed Agricultural Council. A list of species to be planted has been received and will be shared with all. As part of this process, the Land Trust will also have to show a slide presentation on the importance of protecting streams. Sarah Franchino, environmental studies teacher at Somers High School will be contacted to see if she is willing to show the slide presentation to her students as extra credit. If she is unable to do so, it will be presented to the residents as an event sponsored by the Land Trust.

Somers Energy Expo – The Somers Energy Expo was held on Saturday, February 5 at Somers High School. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor spoke at the conference about the greening/energy projects that are being done at Angle Fly. The Land Trust also had an informational booth. Unfortunately only five

people attended the Somers Land Trust presentation, but three of them agreed to become volunteers at Angle Fly. Since the event was not crowded, Mr. MacGregor had an opportunity to network with some of the vendors who had exhibits and obtained some useful information and commitments for help with projects at Angle Fly.

Biodiversity Mapping- The Committee will meet again on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. The area around Angle Fly still has to be mapped. Mr. Barnhart will finish the worksheets. Arrangements will be made to have Hudsonia conduct a field verification visit.

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

Bridge – The bridge has been delivered (in 175 pieces) and is at Angle Fly. A “Bridge Raising” will be held on March 13 and 19. Arrangements have been made for the Lion’s, Lion’s Leos and Scouts to help. All agreed to look into serving hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks to the workers.

Composting Toilets – Information is being collected on Composting Toilets so that an RFP can be completed and submitted in April or May, with installation in June or July.

Pond Aeration System Grant – Councilman Clinchy is trying to secure a source for a \$10,000 grant for a pond aeration system.

Work Days – On February 26, Norway maples will be removed from around the pond and tree removal will take place on the Blue Stem Meadow by the Tatham house. March 13 and 19 will be dedicated to the bridge installation. On April 3, trail building will continue on the yellow trail and begin on the white trail. April 16 will be dedicated to the green trail.

Rain Barrels – The Boy Scout who was making rain barrels for his Eagle Scout Project has completed the work and they are being stored until the spring.

Girl Scout Project – Ms. Jones has met again with Girl Scout Emily Enoch to go over a draft of the signs she is working on. She also showed Emily the presentation she did on the history of Angle Fly for the Annual Meeting. Emily was enthralled. All agreed to present it to other groups, as Ms. Jones did an excellent job.

Weekday Work Day Request – Some requests have been made to hold a work day during the week. All agreed that it was a good idea. Mr. MacGregor will schedule one for late spring.

Tree Nut Association – A representative of the Tree Nut Association contacted Mr. MacGregor. They are interested in identifying, maintaining and reporting on the trees with nuts that exist in Angle Fly Preserve.

North County News – Contact was made with the North County News publisher Bruce Apgar at the Chamber dinner. He is interested in increasing coverage in the northern part of the County and would like to include events at Angle Fly. The information about the “Bridge Raising” will be forwarded to him, as well as all newsletters.

IBM 100th Anniversary – In celebration of their 100th Anniversary, IBM is designating June 15 as community service day. Mr. MacGregor will make arrangement to have a crew of IBM employees at Angle Fly on that day to complete some specific projects.

Ellie Becher – It is with sadness that Mr. Barnhart announced the passing of Ellie Becher, former Somers Land Trust President and member. All agreed to request permission from the Town Board to name the Angle Fly dam trail after her.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

OLD BUSINESS

Lakeview Terrace Paper Road – A memo was sent to Steve Woelfle, Town Principle Engineering Technician regarding a request to convey a paper right of way for Lakeview Terrace. He and Mr. Barnhart spoke. The owner would like to take ownership only to remove the trees that have fallen on their property.

Endangered Species List – Ms. Jones had secured a student of hers to work on the Endangered Species List for Somers. Unfortunately that offer fell through. She and Mrs. Schirmer will discuss this further.

NEW BUSINESS

ELLA Workshop – A workshop on critical environmental areas will sponsored by ELLA and held at Teatown Reservation on March 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mrs. Antonucci and Mr. Barnhart plan to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17 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