

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

MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2010

Chairman Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 9:15 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin and Laretta Jones.

Guest Bob Mac Gregor was also present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Jones to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Gerfin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve

Trails Meeting - On January 30, Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Mac Gregor, Mr. Fulton and Ms. Draper met at Angle Fly Preserve, to introduce Ms. Draper to the property. Much of the yellow trail was walked, as well as a portion of the area where the next trail will be constructed. The site of the foot bridge was visited and also the area around Plumbrook Drive. Ms. Draper has been with the NY/NJ Trail Conference for a little less than 2 months. She is looking forward to working on the trails at Angle Fly. She will speak to Eddie Walsh about some of the deliverables that still have to be addressed. Chain saw training also has to be planned.

Mr. Fulton secured information for a 3 foot wide aluminum foot bridge. The company is Bailey Bridges, which is a subsidiary of Pioneer Bridges of Fort Wayne, Alabama. The cost is \$10,000 plus \$2,000 to anodize it. Installation, though difficult will not be as labor intensive as a composite, but the abutments will have to be determined.

Mr. Barnhart will speak to Mr. Ralston regarding the status of the release of the \$75,000 Recreational Trails Grant funds.

In March, Mr. Barnhart will meet with DEP representatives John Staby and Charlie Laing to walk the property and discuss the trail proposal.

Hunting Meeting - The last meeting was held on February 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the

Town House. Meeting minutes were sent via email to all Somers Land Trust Board members. The primary focus was spring turkey hunting and there is a lot to be done. Mr. Mac Gregor will take the list and transform it into a project list.

Management Plan Update - The Management Plan was completed and forwarded to the Town Supervisor for Town Board approval. Once it is approved by the Town Board, it will be given to the NYS DEC for their approval. Mr. Barnhart will email Supervisor Murphy for an update.

Mapping Update - The Committee met on January 24 and February 4. They are currently reviewing the infrared stereoscopic aerial photos and correlating the data, and creating habitat maps. The Westchester Land Trust is providing ortho photos. The next meeting is on March 16.

Conservation Easement List - A list was established by an intern in the Planning Department, but additional information was needed. Ms. Jones offered to research the files further in an attempt to complete the Conservation Easement List. Some of the records were not able to be located. A copy of the conservation easement for Windsor Farms has to be obtained. Ideally, the Somers Land Trust needs some stewardship experience. Work has to be coordinated with the Westchester Land Trust. Mr. Barnhart will speak with the Town Planner and will make arrangements for Mr. Oscarson of the Westchester Land Trust to meet with the Open Space Committee. Everyone thanked Ms. Jones for her efforts.

Committee Vacancies - Mr. Mac Gregor has expressed an interest in serving on the Open Space Committee. He will send a letter of intent to Mrs. Schirmer who will forward it to the Town Board.

Somers Land Trust

Annual Meeting - The Annual Meeting of the Somers Land Trust was held at 2:00 p.m. on January 24 in the Program Room at the Somers Library. Twenty eight people were in attendance. In addition to discussing the accomplishments at the Angle Fly Preserve over the past year, Pat Mac Gregor presented: ***Angle Fly Preserve, A Closer Look: Managing the Invasives and Promoting the Natives.***

Projects Update - Mr. Mac Gregor reported the following about projects that have either been or still have to be completed:

At the February workday, vines will be cut, and if a lot of people attend, the site line on Route 139 will be cleared.

The Lions Club has completed the roof on the chicken coop. Deadbolt locks will be placed on the door.

The lower barn has been cleaned out, and the Town Police have been given permission to store their gator in it.

Some upcoming projects that will be completed by youth groups include a deer enclosure and building kiosks. Five large kiosks and four small have to be built. Locations were reviewed, and a common design for each will have to be determined.

Rain barrels need to be placed around the garden area.

The barberry has to be removed and in certain areas will be replaced with native plants.

A water storage tank will be constructed where the old cistern was by the barn.

Benches will be purchased/built and placed around the pond area.

Nature path labels have to be made and placed on the yellow trail.

A meeting will be arranged between Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Mac Gregor and Supervisor Murphy to discuss the rehabilitation of the Reynolds House. A determination has to be made as to the direction in which to proceed.

There has been an ongoing problem with the gate not being unlocked on Town holidays and weekends. Memos have been sent to the Town Police requesting their assistance by both the Land Trust, and Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Barnhart has researched electronic gates that can be set on a timer. The cost is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. This could resolve the problem. Perhaps some fundraising can be done.

The fencing around the condos and the Tatham House has been falling down due to wind, snow and deer. The Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff has been putting it back up. They have also been plowing the roadways.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

Mr. Barnhart received an email earlier today from ELLA. They sent a survey to all of the Planning Boards in Westchester and very few responded, including the Somers Planning Board. Mr. Barnhart will forward the email to the Town Planner in hopes of a response to the survey.

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission - In 2008, the Open Space Committee sent a memo to the Town Board supporting the creation of a Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. To date, there has been no update. Another memo was sent in February and the Town Board tabled the discussion until their March meeting.

Condos in Angle Fly Preserve - In the fall of 2008, after completing a site visit to view the existing condos at Angle Fly Preserve, the Architectural Review Board recommended that the Town Board explore the possibility of reusing these structures. A memo was sent to the Town Board by the Open Space Committee supporting this recommendation. There has been no update. Another memo was sent, and at their February meeting, the Town Board decided that the condos at Angle Fly were not worth saving. Mr. Mac Gregor created a proposal to reuse the condos. He will send it to the Land Trust Board members for review and comment.

Endangered Species List - Ms. Jones reported that the Endangered Species List continues to be a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18 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