

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

February 20, 2014

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

MINUTES

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

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

On January 30, Care of Trees cleared trees from around the Tatham Mansion and garden, and left two big piles of chips.

The last workday had to be cancelled as a result of all the snow. At the one prior to that, the green trail was cleared. All of the trails are in generally good shape. The next two workdays are on March 2 and 16.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Mapping – A meeting was held on February 4 and a work plan was created with steps for moving forward. A sketch plan has to be created, from which a digitized map will be made. Another meeting will be held on March 4. Mr. Barnhart spoke with Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia. They will do the digitization part of the

project with funds made available through the Hudson River Estuary program. She will also provide a map to use at the March 4 session.

NEW BUSINESS

Hidden Meadow – On January 28, the Committee sent another memo to the Town Board regarding the proposed Hidden Meadow project located at 16 Route 6 and as a follow up to Insite Engineering's response to the Open Space Committees memo of November 27. Evidently, despite the Committee's environmental concerns and suggested alternative to erect ball fields on the less impacted northern portion of the Windsor Farm property, discussions continue to focus only on building these facilities on the southern section, apparently because this alternative allows for those fields to be lit. The Committee feels very strongly that lighting could significantly magnify the impact of the athletic fields. Thus, as the various scenarios for both Hidden Meadow and the Windsor Farms southern parcel are considered, some analysis of wildlife impacts by a reputable consulting firm who specializes in these types of investigations should be conducted. Mr. Barnhart will discuss this further with Supervisor Morrissey. Committee members also urged that their concerns surrounding this project be represented in the preliminary discussions going forward.

9 Alden Way – An email was received via the Engineering Department from the attorney of the owner of 9 Alden Way. This is a small piece of property that appears to be landlocked. After review and discussion, it was determined that if the owner no longer wishes to keep the property, the only viable option is to offer it as a donation to the Town. Mr. Barnhart will respond.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 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
Town Planner
Parks and Recreation Board
Planning Board