

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2010

Chairman Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Bob Mac Gregor.

Councilman Morrissey was also present.

NEW MEMBER

At their March Town Board meeting, the Town Board appointed Mr. Mac Gregor to take Mr. Morrissey's place on the Open Space Committee. He was welcomed by all and congratulated.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Jones to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Gerfin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve

Hunting Meeting - The last meeting was held on March 10 in the Town House. Meeting minutes were sent via email to all Somers Land Trust Board members. The primary focus was spring turkey hunting. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor met to discuss the tasks and work plan, which is as follows:
Qualifying Tests - to be held on March 27 and 31; Parking; Registration Forms; Forms and Permits; Orientation Session - to be held on April 23; and Final Rules, Posting of Rules and Kiosks for Hunters. The Westchester Bowhunters Association is willing to assist with some of these tasks.

Management Plan Update - The Management Plan was completed and forwarded to the Town Supervisor. Mrs. Murphy reviewed the plan and made proposed changes that were consented to. Hopefully it will be approved by the Town Board at the April 8 meeting.

Mr. Barnhart will meet with DEP Director of Watershed Recreation John Staby at the end of March or beginning of April to discuss trail plans on their portion of the property, as well hunting regulations.

Westchester Land Trust Update - Damon Oscarson, Director of Stewardship and Conservation Science has left the Westchester Land Trust. A meeting needs take place between the Committee and the new Executive Director Ben Spinelli. Mr. Barnhart will speak to Eileen Hochberg, Director of Conservation Outreach to make these arrangements.

Mapping Update - The Committee will meet again on March 25. More has to be done on mapping the habitats in Town, as smart growth cannot be accomplished unless the location of the resources can be identified. Ms. Jones acquired a lot of knowledge at the recent Hudsonia workshop she attended, and feels as though the Committee can pick up the work pace a bit, in an effort to get more accomplished. It would be helpful to see what other communities have done with the information that they have collected, and to coordinate efforts with the neighboring Towns.

Somers Land Trust

Workdays - Upcoming workdays are Saturdays, March 20 and April 10, as well as Sundays, April 25 and May 16. Mr. Mac Gregor will provide a project list of tasks to be completed at each workday.

Reynolds House - Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor met with the Historic Properties Board at the request of the Supervisor on March 17 to discuss the proposal prepared by Mr. Mac Gregor for the Reynolds House in Angle Fly Preserve. After a lengthy discussion and review of Mr. Mac Gregor's report, a decision was made that the exterior should undergo a visual restoration with the intent of returning the building to it's original appearance, while using modern, energy efficient materials. The interior can be gutted down to the post and beam structure, and be rebuilt.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

There were no updates this month.

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. It was supposed to be discussed at the March Town Board meeting. To date, there has been no update.

Conservation Easement List - A list was established by an intern in the Planning Department, but additional information was needed. Ms. Jones worked on gathering the rest of that information in an attempt to complete the Conservation Easement List. A copy of the conservation easement for Windsor Farms has to be obtained. Ideally, the easements under the Westchester Land Trust's stewardship are also needed. Ms. Jones will speak to Eileen Hochberg,

Director of Conservation Outreach at the Westchester Land Trust about this.

Endangered Species List - Ms. Jones continues to work on the Endangered Species List.

NEW BUSINESS

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.

Since that time, no updates had been received. In January 2010, another memo was sent, and the Committee learned that at their February meeting, the Town Board decided that the condos at Angle Fly were not worth saving.

Mr. Mac Gregor created a Concept Proposal to repurpose the condos. All members received a copy for review. The proposal embraces a green environmental concept, while focusing on providing an education/nature center. The condos can be repurposed at little or no cost to the Town through a consortium of community organizations. All agreed that since there are no plans in the foreseeable future to build a Community Center in Angle Fly Preserve, the Town Board should carefully consider the ideas that Mr. Mac Gregor is proposing, and allow them serve as a basis for discussion, rather than making a determination to demolish the condos. A memo to the Town Board will be drafted by Mr. Mac Gregor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 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
Conservation Board
Planning and Engineering
Parks and Recreation