

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2011

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting as submitted. Ms. MacGregor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

DEP Property Access – There is a portion of the trail system in the southwest corner of the DEP property that abuts the property of two residents. The trail in this area allows a connection to the Lasdon property. Ideally access to these properties would bring the walker closer to Route 35. One resident has denied access to their property and the other resident still has to be approached. Worst case scenario is that one would have to walk on Route 35 for about 750 feet.

Hunting Updates & Browse Survey – A hunting meeting took place on March 14 and the most recent report was distributed. Mr. Mendoza is preparing a brief survey and the best method of distributing was discussed. It may be easy enough to include it in a Constant Contact newsletter. New information can be disseminated this way as well. Bigger kiosks and maps will be provided for the hunters. A sample of a Browse Survey was supplied by a Forester in the Region 3 DEC office. Browse damage and pellet numbers would be sampled along transects through the property. All agreed that there is simply too much going on at present to do that now. Perhaps next year it can be done.

Somers Volunteer Fire Department Requests – One of the Lieutenants of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department requested maps of the trails at Angle Fly and suggested that they might hold some drills on the property. The maps are a work in progress and any requests for drills should come from the Chiefs of the Department and channeled to the appropriate entity for approval.

Parks & Recreation Board – Reynold's Pond – Councilman Clinchy informed the Open Space Committee via an email that he had asked the Parks and

Recreation Board to consider spending money from the Recreation Fee account to aerate the pond at Angle Fly Preserve. Mr. Clinchy has been researching several funding sources over the past year and none came to fruition for various reasons. They felt that even though dredging didn't have to be done before a system installation, it made sense to do so anyway because the water level in the pond gets so low during the summer months. If a plan was in place to dredge first, the Parks and Recreation Board could commit to some of the funds after that was done.

LTA/DEC Assessment Grant - The Land Trust applied for a \$5,000 Land Trust Alliance/Department of Environmental Conservation Assessment Grant and did receive it. A conference call will take place next week as to the next steps.

Somers Land Trust

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

Bridge – The bridge was successfully installed over the course of two days. One hundred people helped on the first day and seventy five on the second.

GPS Mapping – Mr. MacGregor is in the process of working with the Town Planner to create a GPS map of Angle Fly Preserve. About half of the property has been completed.

Workdays – The next workday is Sunday, April 3. The non DEP portion of the yellow trail has been flagged and blazed, and clearing will begin on Sunday. The white trail from the blue trail to the yellow trail is blazed and needs to be cleared. The next step will be to complete the green trail, which will complete the trail system that is not on DEP property. The April and May workdays have been set. Those for June, July and August are as follows: June 18 and 26; July 9 and 17; and August 13 and 28.

Roadway Signs – Highway Superintendent Tom Chiaverini is working with the State on signs for crossing Route 139 and he is taking care of the signs for Plumbrook Road, a Town roadway.

Wood for Bridging and Planking – A bid was done for all the wood needed to complete the bridging and planking of the trail system, rather than buying it piece meal. The total was about \$3,000. It will be delivered tomorrow, and as much as possible will be placed in the yellow barn at Angle Fly, with the remaining being placed just outside the barn.

Trails Grant Forms – Mr. MacGregor received some required forms that need to be completed for the volunteers that have been and continue to be involved in the trail building.

Building Performance Contractor's Association – On March 16, Mr.

MacGregor made a presentation to the Building Performance Contractor's Association, as a result of a contact he made at the Somers Energy Expo. They are particularly interested in getting involved with any projects that will focus on energy efficiency, like the Reynold's House or the condos.

Eagle Scout Ceremony – Mr. MacGregor attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony of Jon Dunstan. He built a deer enclosure at Angle Fly as his Eagle Scout project.

Potential Eagle Scout Projects – Two potential Eagle Scout Projects at Angle Fly are a main entrance and parking lot kiosks, and rain gardens. The Town Planner is anxious to see rain gardens incorporated in Angle Fly as a showcase for storm water solutions. MS4 credits for phosphorus reductions would also be available.

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast – Mrs. Antonucci, Mrs. Gerfin and Mrs. Van Wart will set up a Somers Land Trust informational table at the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 3.

Chainsaw Certification Class – Both Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor will be attending a mandatory chainsaw certification class on April 9 and 10. Mr. Barnhart also has to get certified in CPR and First Aid.

Composting Toilets – The Requests for Proposal for two composting toilets for Angle Fly have been sent out. Hopefully they will be installed in June.

Television Interview – Mr. MacGregor will be interviewed regarding the projects at Angle Fly tomorrow by Ifay Chang. It will be televised on the Town TV station.

June 15 Volunteer Day – Both IBM and Pepsi are sponsoring volunteer days on June 15. Mr. MacGregor will provide detailed plans for the bridging and planking that needs to be done on the green trail for project work for that day.

Biodiversity Mapping

The Committee met on March 30 and the mapping project is almost complete. Some worksheets still have to be completed. Once done, field verification can be take place. Mr. Barnhart will speak to Gretchen Stevens at Hudsonia to make arrangements for field verification training.

ELLA Workshop on Critical Environmental Areas

Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Antonucci attended an ELLA workshop on establishing critical environmental areas. All Town Boards are empowered by State legislation to designate critical environmental areas. The habitat mapping will assist in this effort. Once the mapping project is completed, these areas will be determined and a memo sent to the Town Board.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

There were no updates this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21 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
Conservation Board
Parks and Recreation Board
Planning Board