

## **SOMERS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 14, 2009**

The evening began with a joint meeting between the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Board.

Open Space Committee Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chairs Michael Barnhart and Rick Morrissey, Jan Antonucci, Jeanette Gerfin, Lauretta Jones and Gail Simpson. Conservation Board members present included: Chair Gary Meixner, Frank Lapetina, Ed Merker, James Moriarity and Secretary Rosetta Davis.

Mr. Barnhart reiterated that the reason for the joint meeting was to discuss the roles of the respective entities. Mr. Morrissey told the Conservation Board members how the Open Space Committee began. The Committee is charged with preserving open space in Town. He explained and distributed copies of the Open Space Property Lists. All of the properties are at least 5 acres and the criteria are environmental sensitivity and cultural aspects. Mr. Barnhart talked about Biodiversity Assessment and the importance of protecting the sensitive habitats. He hopes that the Conservation Board members will consider Biodiversity Assessment while reviewing projects. Mr. Barnhart talked about a mapping project that is currently being worked on.

Mr. Merker explained that the three charges the Conservation Board has are wetlands, steep slopes and tree preservation. They often look at projects beyond their purview because they think it is important. Mr. Barnhart concurred that the Open Space Committee does the same. The landscape view has to be considered as well. When a parcel is reviewed, there could very well be something important on an abutting property.

Concerns regarding projects that are before the Planning Board were shared. A discussion about Angle Fly took place as well.

All agreed that if both entities work together they will provide a stronger presence to the Town. Moving forward, the Conservation Board secretary will email the Open Space Committee secretary a copy of all of their correspondence so that the Open Space Committee has an opportunity to add comment.

The joint portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. and the Open Space Committee meeting was called to order at 8:40 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Gerfin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

### **Chair's Report**

**Biodiversity Assessment Training Map** - Mr. Barnhart has completed the Biodiversity Assessment Training map. Supervisor Murphy has sent it to Hudsonia so it can be digitized.

**Angle Fly Preserve: DEC Hunting Requirements, NY/NJ Trails Conference and Recreational Trails Grant** - The Management Plan for Angle Fly Preserve was reviewed by Bill Rudge and the only issues pertained to the DEC Hunting Requirements portion. Mr. Morrissey reviewed and revised the eight items in question. He is still waiting to hear back from the Somers Police Chief regarding firing a shotgun in Somers during small game season. Mrs. Simpson will stop by the Police Station and follow up. There was also some issue about shooting coyotes. Doug Erickson of the Westchester Bow Hunters and Rod Christie were consulted about this issue. Supervisor Murphy will be setting up a meeting with Bill Rudge. The plan has to be approved by the County and the DEC so that the grant money can be released.

The contract with the NY/NJ Trails Conference has been signed. Mr. Barnhart has a call into them to see if they can visit Angle Fly and begin assessing the trails.

Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Ralston will be meeting with two representatives from New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at Angle Fly to finish up the requirements for the Recreational Trails Grant.

**Somers Land Trust Report: Angle Fly Preserve Workdays and Fundraising** - The next workday is Saturday, April 18. Work will continue on the Tatham Garden. Mr. Morrissey cut some vines from the garden yesterday and cleared off the top of the walls and stairs. It appears as though someone recently mulched in the garden area. Ms. Jones will come up with a plan for the Girl Scouts in terms of what needs to be done in the garden. Mrs. Schirmer is willing to do some research on the garden and house. In addition, Pat Mc Gregor sent an email to Ms. Jones about planting native species on the grounds. She is also a photographer. Perhaps she can begin the restoration of the pond. It would be nice if local nurseries can make donations of plantings.

Other items to be done as part of the workday include: cleaning the parking lot

by the condos; fencing off the condos; roadside cleanup on Van Renssalaer and Plumbrook and if time allows, adding posts and fixing the fence around the Tatham House and roping off an area for the first trail loop.

The Westchester Land Trust is willing to do a fundraiser mailing for the Somers Land Trust for \$290. All agreed that this was a reasonable price.

Mrs. Schirmer offered to takeover as Secretary for the Somers Land Trust. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. Both Bob Mc Gregor and Rosie Van Wart will be asked to attend.

**Biodiversity Assessment: Set Up Committee Work Schedule** - The air photo order has been sent for copying. Map work has to be completed for north of Angle Fly. Mr. Barnhart will make copies of the soils map. All agreed that plans should be made to meet every other week until this project is complete. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Antonucci's house on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Simpson will see if Mrs. Van Wart would like to join them.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

An update will be given at the meeting in May.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Backman Addition and Alteration Application** - The application was received and reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting 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