

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2010

Chairman Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 8:55 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Bob Mac Gregor.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Mac Gregor to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve

Hunting Update - Qualifying Tests were held on March 27 and 31. Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Mac Gregor and the Westchester Bowhunters Association handled the event. Seventy seven people attended, and sixty nine were qualified. Both Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor felt that all can be assured that those hunting on the property will be very proficient. An Orientation will be held on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Town House. Mr. Ralston has been working on identifications and parking passes, and Mr. Barnhart has been taking care of the rules and regulations. Mr. Fulton is making maps of Angle Fly and marking the areas where hunting will not be allowed (the 15 acres that is managed by the Town has been deemed off limits for hunters). Those areas will be marked with "No Hunting" signs. The map will be posted on the kiosk and hunters will be required to place pins on the map indicating where they are hunting. Mr. Mac Gregor has been working on the parking area. The perimeter of the property was posted on the last workday. Illegal tree stands were found during the process, as well as an area being used for paintball gaming. It was noted that the invasive problem is significant on the eastern portion of the property. North of Plumbrook Road has not yet been posted. On April 28, "Hunting in Progress" signs will be posted.

Bedford Biodiversity Meeting - Mr. Barnhart has been invited to attend the May 13 Bedford Conservation Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. to talk about the mapping project that the Mapping Committee has been working on. All on that Committee are encouraged to attend as well. A discussion will take place at the next mapping meeting to discuss what should be brought to the Bedford meeting.

Somers Land Trust

Work Projects - John Dunstan is building a deer enclosure on the south side of the parking area as his Eagle Scout project. The enclosure will be 80' by 100' and will have heavy quality fencing.

Two Girl Scout Gold Award projects are underway. Mrs. Van Wart is working with them, and they include interpretive signs and seating on the yellow trail.

Specifications are being sought from three vendors for the foot bridge. Once received, Mr. Ralston will continue with the Town process in purchasing the bridge.

Somers landscapers Eberlin and Eberlin have offered their services to map the area of the pond, barn and meadow in an effort to make recommendations as to how to develop that area. They were asked to incorporate rain gardens if possible. They determined that the depth of the pond is 4 ½ feet, which is lower than what we were originally told. An aeration system has to be considered as well.

Mr. Mac Gregor cannot attend the next two workdays, but he will provide a work project list. It was also suggested that garbage pick up be done at the next workday on April 25, as it kicks off the Town's Annual Clean Up and Green Week.

The need for a port-a-john at Angle Fly has become more apparent due to the increase in usage. Mr. Mac Gregor will speak to Mr. Ralston about this and plans to move forward on the composting toilet project will happen as quickly as possible.

Plans for the 2nd trail section, up to the area where the foot bridge will be located, can begin at the May 16 workday.

Kudos once again to Mr. Mac Gregor for all his planning and organizing.

Workdays - The workdays scheduled are as follows: Sunday, April 25; Sunday, May 16; Saturday, June 5, which is also National Trails Day; Sunday, July 11 and Saturday, July 31. The dates will be posted on the Land Trust website, as well as the kiosks in Angle Fly. Email reminders will be sent out as well.

Reynolds House - Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor met with the Town Board on April 8. The dialogue was good and they felt that the majority of the Board was in favor of rebuilding the Reynolds House. Money is needed to complete this project. It has been suggested that Recreation Fees be used. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor will meet with the Parks and Recreation Board on April 27 to

discuss the proposal. A detailed budget will eventually be needed for this project. Mr. Mac Gregor was approached at the Lion's Club Breakfast by resident Doug Frey, who is a contractor. He has offered his services to create that budget and solicit for donations. In addition, a resident electrician offered help, as well as a hunter that is a mason and excavator, and a landscape architect with Rosedale Nursery, who is the father of one of the Boy Scouts that has volunteered at Angle Fly. We must thank all that have already and continue to give donations in the form of craftsmanship, and the value of those donations must be kept track of.

Mapping Update

Two sub groups have been created and are working on infrared stereoscopic photos for the northeastern and western sections of Somers. The Committee will meet again on April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

Mr. Barnhart will forward a copy of the Town Planner's Project Update quarterly report to all members.

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.

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

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.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 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
Conservation Board
Planning and Engineering
Parks and Recreation