

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**

**April 19, 2012**

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

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting as submitted. Mrs. VanWart seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**ANGLE FLY PRESERVE & SOMERS LAND TRUST UPDATES:**

**Workdays** – Upcoming workdays are as follows: April 21, May 6, June 3 and 16, July 15 and 28, August 12, and September 15 and 23.

**Trails** – All but about 150 feet of the trail system is complete. The main concentration now will be maintenance of all trails.

All kiosks have been installed and there is a map on each one, however a small kiosk is needed at the Route 100 entrance to the trail system.

Almost all of the sign posts have been installed at all trail intersections. Maps will be attached to each of these signs as well and are oriented north. One existing sign post does have to be relocated.

Maintenance on the orange and green trails will be the focus of the workday this Saturday.

**Beaver Dam** – There is a new beaver dam just north of the entrance that is about 55' wide and it is estimated that it has raised the water level by about 18". It has been determined, that if the dam should break, it won't flood the roadway, but there is always a concern with the culvert under the road (Route 139). It has been determined at this time by the Town Engineer and the Department of Transportation that nothing has to be done with the beaver dam, but the situation will be monitored.

**Trail Map** – Some minor revisions are being made to the map that is on the website because of shadowing. DEP has also asked that their property boundaries be marked on the map.

At the request of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, trail maps were given to Mrs. Schirmer to give to the Somers Volunteer Fire Department at the next Bureau meeting. A memo will accompany the maps.

**Composting Toilets** – The composting toilets are working out well and are getting a lot of use. They need to be swept out regularly, which is being done by volunteers at the workdays.

**Recreational Trails Grant** – The recreational trails grant should be closed out in July.

**IBM Hike** – There are a group of IBM employees that hike various trails in the area. This is set up by the NY/NJ Trails Conference. About 25 people hiked Angle Fly on April 17.

**Boy Scout Eagle Scout Projects** – A few Boy Scout Eagle Scout Projects are in the process of being done at Angle Fly: planting the slope behind the composting toilet by the Reynolds House in a honeycomb material; planking the yellow trail by the beaver dam and placing natural seating on at least one side; putting a bridge and planking over a drainage ditch on the blue trail down by Lasdon Park; and installing a rain garden by the Reynolds House.

**Security Camera** – The security camera will be installed next week.

**Tree Project** – An audit has been done of the trees and shrubs planted along Route 139 at Angle Fly. A full report will be provided. All of the tubes were removed so the trees could be pruned and measured, and the tubes replaced. One tree was lost and about half of the shrubs because their roots got wet and rotted. The general consensus was that this project was a success.

**DEP Portion of the Property** – DEP would like users to know that they are on their portion of the property. Signs will be erected indicating that the user is now leaving Town/County property and entering that of DEP.

In addition, DEP does allow dogs on their property. The Town/County property has signage that indicates that dogs are not allowed. DEP agreed not to erect any signage about dogs being permitted on their property.

Mr. MacGregor is working with DEP on signs for the kiosks on Route 35 and Hilltop Drive. Although they have design standards, they are willing to discuss acceptable variations so there is continuity with all signage.

A discussion is also in progress to create and approve a bridge design for an area by Route 35.

DEP will be posting signs at their entrance points to their portion of the property.

**Route 35 Crossing** – Future consideration must be given as to crossing Route 35 to access Lasdon Park and to contact the landowners in that area regarding trail easements.

**Future of the Reynolds House** – Once the trails grant is closed, the focus needs to be on the future of the Reynolds House as it is the first thing one sees as they enter Angle Fly.

**Earth Day Open House at Angle Fly** – Email invitations have been sent to all Town employees, Boards and Committees for an Earth Day Open House at Angle Fly on April 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tours of the Preserve will be provided and a guided hike for those that are interested at 11:30 a.m.

**I Love My Park Day** – The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Parks and Trails NY is sponsoring a statewide event, I Love My Park Day as a way to improve and enhance New York's parks and historic sites on May 5. All agreed to register for the event. New signs and snow fencing will be erected around the condos at Angle Fly. Mrs. Schirmer will process the registration. All Somers Land Trust members and Friends of Angle Fly Preserve will be notified by email and Mrs. Schirmer will do a press release.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Biodiversity Mapping** – Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones will meet to come up with a plan for moving forward.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Board Resolution** – At their April 12 meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution to set a public hearing for May 17 to transfer the duties from the former Conservation Board to the Open Space Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 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