

SOMERS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
335 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589

MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2011

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

DEP Permit Approval – A GPS map has to be completed to obtain a permit from NYC DEP to access their portion of Angle Fly Preserve to continue building the trail system. Mr. MacGregor is working with the Town Planner on this requirement.

Somers Land Trust Assessment Grant – Mr. MacGregor and Mrs. Simpson participated in a conference call regarding the Land Trust Alliance/NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Assessment Grant. All the paperwork has been received, signed, copied and returned. An Assessor has to be chosen. All Assessor biographies were reviewed and a decision was made to request a proposal and interview the following: Judy Andersen, Henrietta Jordan and Virginia Farley. Mrs. Antonucci and Mrs. Simpson will contact these Assessors and Mr. Barnhart will assist with the interviews.

On May 13, Mrs. Antonucci, Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Simpson will attend a Land Trust Alliance workshop at the Ashokan Center near Kingston regarding a work plan toward accreditation for the Somers Land Trust.

Westchester Land Trust Open Space Discussion – Mr. Barnhart attended a WLT meeting at its offices about open space bond referendums. Status updates were given, and no one is really feeling hopeful that another opportunity for bonding will happen anytime soon. All in attendance agreed that in moving forward communication has to continue and meetings held from time to time. It was interesting to hear what others have experienced. Another meeting will take place in 6 months.

While at this meeting, Mr. Barnhart met Howard Arden, one of the founders of Friends of Muscoot. He is interested in seeing the recently erected bridge at Angle Fly Preserve, as they are interested in building a bridge that would connect Lasdon and Muscoot.

Somers Land Trust

Projects Update:

Trail Network Map – A map of the eastern and central portions of the Angle Fly Preserve Trail Network Map has been completed by Mr. MacGregor. The white trail will be worked on next, and when finished, trail building will begin on the DEP portion of the property.

Composting Toilets – Bids have been returned for the two composting toilets for Angle Fly. Clivus Multrim was the low bidder at \$43,000. One will be placed by the Reynold's Pond and the other in the upper parking lot. They will only need to be cleaned out twice a year. The bid should be awarded at the May Town Board meeting. Payment will be made from the Recreation Trails Grant.

Spring Turkey Hunting – Mr. Mendoza has sent out all letters regarding spring turkey hunting. It is not anticipated to be a busy season.

Record of Volunteer Hours – 150 sheets have been compiled covering all the volunteers who worked on constructing trails in 2009/2010. Those for 2011 have to be completed next. This information is required for the Recreation Trails Grant.

Independence Day Celebration – The Land Trust will have a table at the annual Independence Day Celebration on June 25 in Reis Park.

June 15 Volunteer Day – Unfortunately having volunteers come to Angle Fly from IBM and Pepsi on June 15 is not going to be feasible this spring but possible for the fall.

ELLA Stream Project – On May 3, the holes will be drilled for the 200 trees being planted at Angle Fly on May 4 as part of the ELLA Stream Project. All volunteers are welcome to help with the planting on May 4.

Work Safety Practice – Mr. MacGregor prepared a Work Safety Practice for review and discussion. A couple of revisions were suggested. A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor and seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the Work Safety Practice as revised. All were in favor. It will be posted on the Somers Land Trust website. A list of equipment needed to be purchased as a result of this new Practice being adopted was created by Mr. MacGregor. The NY/NJ Trail

Conference has a vendor that supplies this type of equipment. Payment will be made from the Recreation Trails Grant.

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.

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 10:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19 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