

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

May 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Jeanette Gerfin, Loretta Jones, Bob MacGregor, and Rosey VanWart.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

ANGLE FLY PRESERVE UPDATES:

Earlier today, Mr. MacGregor met with a representative of the company that made the composting toilets. They were pleased with how they were working and indicated that they were being maintained properly, therefore a maintenance agreement would not be necessary.

As a result of concerns and inquiries, the DOT informed the Town that the beaver dam may have to be removed and the beavers trapped. Representatives were meeting earlier today at the site and Mr. MacGregor stopped by. An assessment was done and it was determined that they could lower the water level between 1' and 18" and install a long pipe. The dam would not have to be demolished and eventually the beaver would leave the area. This method would also leave the marsh area unaffected. Mr. MacGregor will be kept up to date on what the DOT is doing. In addition, the Boy Scout that planned to build a viewing platform in that area can continue with his Eagle Scout project to do so.

Demolition of the Reynolds House will begin on Saturday. It turns out there is an asbestos issue with the exterior shingles. A contractor will have to be hired to either remove them or the house will have to be encapsulated. Supervisor Murphy is working on that aspect of the project. In the meantime, the front porch can be removed and demolition of the interior can take place. City Carting donated a 20 yard dumpster to the Town for the debris.

Tomorrow Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor will meet with Eberlin and Eberlin about landscaping around the pond.

The Somers Land Trust will have a table at the Independence Day Celebration on June 29 in Reis Park. There will be children's activities from 2 to 4 p.m., with the opening ceremonies at 4 p.m. Fireworks will take place at dusk.

On May 5, the footbridge on Route 35 was completed. There was a good turnout and this officially completes the trail network. Now Lasdon Park and the neighboring homeowners can be approached for the purpose of connecting our trail network with theirs.

Amending the conservation easement to swap a piece of property, designated for active recreation, from behind the Somers Manor Nursing Home with the lot behind the tennis courts at Reis Park took an interesting turn. DEC informed Paul Elconin that all that was needed was a correction to the conservation easement as long as there was a written sign off by the Town and County. Mr. Barnhart penned a letter that Mr. Elconin helpfully revised and that only awaits the County's signature. However, the process has been very slow. Supervisor Murphy has promised to follow up with Ed Burroughs at County Planning. Mr. Barnhart expects that to happen soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Stuart's Farm: Forest Legacy Program – Mr. Barnhart is now a registered user of the Forest Service's automated application system. Bob Stuart and his sister gave permission to move ahead with the application as a result of a meeting Supervisor Murphy and Mr. Barnhart had with Mr. Stuart on April 23. Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia has agreed to help out and may be able to cover some of the cost of consulting through Hudson Estuary monies. However, if a rare species survey needs to be done, the Somers Land Trust would be responsible for that. Mr. Barnhart plans to visit the property at the end of the month. He will let everyone know.

Biodiversity Mapping – Mr. Barnhart reviewed the worksheets and made a number of corrections. He was greatly assisted in this by the ArcGIS Desktop Explorer software and the access he now has to the NYS GIS database. As he is still figuring out all it can do and not yet in need of producing map layers, he is going to suggest holding off on purchasing the full ArcGIS product until a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20 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
Town Planner
Parks and Recreation Board
Planning Board