

SOMERS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
335 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589

MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2011

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

LTA/DEC Assessment Grant – Mrs. Antonucci, Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Simpson conducted telephone interviews with potential Assessors Judy Anderson, Henrietta Jordan and Virginia Farley for the LTA/DEC Assessment Grant. They were impressed with all three. Mrs. Anderson was chosen due to her specialization in Land Trusts. A motion was made by Mr. Barnhart to hire Judy Anderson and seconded by Mr. MacGregor. All were in favor. Mr. Barnhart will call Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Simpson will call both Ms. Jordan and Ms. Farley and Mr. MacGregor will call Ethan Winter of LTA. A contract will have to be drawn up as well.

On May 13, Mrs. Antonucci, Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Simpson attended an LTA workshop at the Ashokan Center regarding a work plan toward accreditation. As it turns out, the Somers Land Trust does not qualify for accreditation as we haven't completed two direct land acquisition or easement projects. The workshop was helpful however because work was done on some standards and practices. It was a very informative exercise.

Regional Deer Management Meeting – Mr. MacGregor attended a Regional Deer Management Meeting earlier today. An effort is being made to cooperatively deal with deer management throughout the County. It was determined that situations facing communities in the southern part of the County versus the northern part do in fact differ. Issues discussed included: the number of deer; small community programs in place versus larger; bow hunters versus sharpshooters and the time frame in which to allow it; DEC regulations in terms of the distance a shot can be made from a dwelling; and inoculation of does with

contraceptives. Another meeting will be planned.

DEP Permit – There have been some difficulties with getting the information off the GPS and onto the maps. Hopefully the Town Planner can resolve the issues. If not, the Westchester Land Trust may be able to help or Ed Hicks.

ELLA Stream Project – On the 1st day of this project, 81 trees and shrubs were planted at Angle Fly Preserve and 44 on the 2nd day. Thirteen still have to be planted. All have been numbered and logged, and will be monitored three to four times a year. A public presentation about this project still has to be done.

Somers Land Trust

Projects Update:

Trails – Work continues on the green trail and the bridge across the intermittent stream has been completed. On the next workday, a small bridge has to be built over a drainage ditch and some planking will be done. The white trail is in the process of being cleared and the multi-flora rose on the white trail coming off the yellow trail has been cut through. Once completed, there will be about 6 miles of trails available. The DEP Property will be dealt with next. All of those trails have been laid out, but have to be constructed. Mr. MacGregor has created two hikes that one may take, each totaling about 9 miles.

DOT Property – As it turns out, some of the entrance property to Angle Fly along Route 139 is owned by the Department of Transportation.

Map of Town Owned Property – The 15 acre portion of Angle Fly that is owned by the Town has been mapped by Steve Woelfle, the Town's Principal Engineering Technician. Mr. Woelfle has also been very helpful with assisting in planning for rain gardens at Angle Fly, which will help meet MS4 requirements.

Volunteer Hours for Trails Grant – All of the worksheets logging volunteer hours for the Trails Grant match, have been completed as of the end of April. A total of 265 volunteers completed 451 hours of work in 2009; 762 hours in 2010; and 886 hours to date in 2011. There is no doubt that we will be able to meet the match of about \$21,000. These numbers are very impressive and all should be very proud of what has been accomplished.

Biodiversity Mapping

Mr. Barnhart has obtained all the missing orthoscopic photos from Westchester Land Trust. He 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 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Program Room at the Library.

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