

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 20, 2010**

Chairman Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 10:10 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones, Bob Mac Gregor and Gail Simpson.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**Angle Fly Preserve**

**Hunting Update** - To date, no turkey have been shot. A few have been seen though. Less than 20 hunters have hunted since May 1. Bob Mendoza has accepted the position of Somers Land Trust Hunting Coordinator.

**DEP Meeting** - A meeting with DEP representatives John Staby and Charlie Laing took place on May 7. Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Fulton and Mr. Mac Gregor walked the DEP portion of the property with them. They seemed amicable about giving non-permit access for trail building purposes. A discussion also took place about not using shotguns on their portion of Angle Fly. They were pleased to hear that there is an effort being made to protect native plants and contain invasives.

**Bedford Biodiversity Meeting** - Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones attended the May 13 Bedford Conservation Board meeting to talk about the mapping project that the Mapping Committee has been working on. All seemed very interested and were receptive to doing the same in Bedford. Assistance was offered if needed.

**Mapping Meeting** - 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 June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

**Somers Land Trust**

**Workdays** - June 5 is the next work day scheduled. Work has to begin on the boardwalk connecting the yellow trail to the foot bridge area. 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.

Yellow trail maintenance has to be done and the tree stands have to be removed.

A plea for donations of used tools will be made. They can be locked up in the chicken coop for use on workdays.

The plans for Eagle River were obtained from the condo used as the sales office. They have proven to be very useful, as the location of the utilities have been identified on them.

Somers landscapers Eberlin and Eberlin have been working on mapping 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. We may be able to use a local resident's services to dredge the pond to get rid of the silt and deepen it so the phragmites don't get into the pond. Mr. Mac Gregor and Mrs. Simpson will put a plan together and get it to Mrs. Schirmer for Town Board consideration. An aeration system has to be considered as well.

A list of plants and shrubs desired for the pond area will be listed for donation purposes at the table the Land Trust will have at the annual Independence Day Celebration on June 26 in Reis Park. All were reminded to get there before 9:00 a.m. or after 10:00 a.m.

A location for a pad and sitting area by the chicken coop has been identified and a local contractor is willing to do the work.

There has been some vandalism around the Tatham House. The bowl on the fountain on the garden wall was broken off. Mr. Mac Gregor will put it in the chicken coop and have it repaired at some point in the future.

The Native Plant Center tour will take place on Saturday, May 22 in the morning. About 30 people have signed up for the tour.

Bedford Audubon is also interested in a tour in the future.

**Reynolds House** - Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor met with the Parks and Recreation Board on April 27. The dialogue was good and they felt that the majority of the Board was in favor of rebuilding the Reynolds House, but unless the project came in at a cost of around \$100,000, they were not in favor of using Recreation Fees. Resident Doug Frey, who is a contractor is in the process of creating a budget for this project. Once figures are secured, another discussion will take place.

### **Planning and Conservation Board Updates**

There were no updates this evening.

### **Somers Land Trust Discussion with Westchester Land Trust**

Mr. Barnhart thanked Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Holmes for attending the meeting. It was explained that there was an agreement with the past Executive Director of the Westchester Land Trust, Paul Gallay, for the Somers Land Trust to be 3<sup>rd</sup> party easement holders on some conservation easements in Somers. The Somers Land Trust would like to become more involved with stewardships on some of those easements.

Most of the conservation easements in Somers are nature preserve type parcels. The largest currently is Windsor Farms, which could be used for trails. The Westchester Land Trust sponsors a program called Helping Hands. Local corporations are solicited for help in building, for example, trails on a parcel. IBM and Pepsi could be solicited to help in Somers.

Ms. Carpenter will provide the Somers Land Trust with baseline and easement information, and is also willing to assist with GIS mapping needed for Lasdon and Muscoot, for the eventual trail connection of Angle Fly to those properties. It was also suggested that we talk to the Friends groups of both Lasdon and Muscoot. The Westchester Land Trust will also assist us with talking to the owners of the parcels that abut to Angle Fly again, regarding conservation easements.

Mr. Barnhart will send Westchester Land Trust the electronic version of the Management Plan for Angle Fly. On a side note, he will also talk to the Supervisor about an update on Stuart Farm, as it is understood that farmland PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) has not yet been finalized.

All agreed that Windsor Farms would be a good place to start in terms of doing a habitat assessment and a trail construction plan. Somers Estates on Lovell Street might be a parcel of interest as well.

Mr. Holmes is on the Board of Directors of the NY/NJ Trails Conference. He will reconnect them with us, as they did some initial trail work at Angle Fly.

### **Land Trust Alliance Update**

Mrs. Antonucci and Mrs. Simpson attended a Land Trust Alliance Conference in

Poughkeepsie on May 13 about strategic planning. A prepared summary was distributed and reviewed.

The annual Land Trust Alliance National Land Conservation Conference will be held in Hartford, CT on October 2 - 5, 2010. Information will be available at the next meeting and all are encouraged to attend since it is local this year.

An LTA meeting was held yesterday regarding conservation defense insurance. It is something we have to think about getting, as well as liability insurance. Mr. Barnhart will speak to Ms. Carpenter about this and report back at the next meeting. Another LTA meeting will be held next Tuesday, May 25 in the Catskills about capacity building grants from the DEP.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Condos in Angle Fly Preserve** - The Concept Proposal that Mr. Mac Gregor prepared was sent to the Town and Parks and Recreation Boards in the form of a memo.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10 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