

SOMERS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2009

Co-Chair Rick Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chair Rick Morrissey, Jan Antonucci, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson. Somers Land Trust members Bob Mac Gregor and Rosie Van Wart were also in attendance.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve:

DEC Hunting Meeting - The Management Plan for Angle Fly Preserve was reviewed by Bill Rudge and the only issues pertained to the DEC Hunting Requirements portion. Mr. Morrissey reviewed and revised the eight items in question. A meeting will take place at the Town House on May 27 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this further.

Trails: NY/NJ Trails Conference Meeting - Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Simpson met with the NY/NJ Trails Conference representatives on May 13. Jeffrey Fulton's newest trail proposal was reviewed. It is 1.8 miles and loops from the parking lot and back without crossing Angle Fly. They did a little tweaking, but all agreed it was a doable first trail.

A suitable bridge crossing for a structure roughly 40' long was identified. It will be made of composite materials, mostly fiberglass and can be easily carried in parts. It will involve little ground disturbance. Mr. Morrissey wondered whether or not using composite materials will be okay with Trout Unlimited.

Recreational Trails Grant - Final Steps - Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones met with the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation people regarding the Recreational Trails Grant. It appears as though all issues have been resolved, with the exception of one. A determination has to be made as to whether or not an archaeology study has to be done. They are trying to convince the State archaeologist that no major disturbances are planned. The parking lot is a bit of a problem in this regard. On May 15, Mr. Barnhart met with the Town

Engineer, Guy Gagne and a location that should suffice in terms of disturbance issues was identified. A letter from Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Gagne and a map indicating the location of the parking lot should satisfy them. A letter was received from Mr. Gagne to Mr. Barnhart and maps were attached.

Somers Land Trust Report:

Angle Fly Preserve - May 16 Workday Update - Another successful workday was held on May 16. A lot was accomplished.

Mr. Morrissey reported that the LION's Club has a local roofer and gutter man preparing proposals on material costs to replace the roof and gutters on the Reynold's House and barn. The LION's will donate the labor.

Habitat for Humanity is doing a project on Forest Lane in Shenorock and they have also considered doing a "Brush of Kindness" for the Reynold's House. If approved they would repair the inside to make it habitable and the Town would offer it as affordable housing.

Ms. Jones asked Mr. Morrissey to have the LION's look at the porch of the Reynold's House facing Route 139. It needs to be reinforced as soon as possible. One post is missing and there were once three.

Land Trust Alliance Northeast Conference - Mr. Barnhart, Ms. Jones and Mrs. Simpson attended the LTA Northeast Conference. Each participated in a lecture session, Stewardships, Zoning and Fundraising respectively. A Land Trust meeting will be organized to discuss what they each learned in more detail.

Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates

St. Joseph's Church at JFK High School - The proposed Stormwater Management Plan was reviewed and discussed. Perhaps rain gardens can be considered. Cape Cod curbing should be suggested and it appears as though the wetland buffer is encroached by the baseball diamond. Mr. Barnhart will draft a letter to the Planning Board outlining the comments of the Open Space Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Assessment: Progress Report - The air photo order has been received. Mapping the area around Mrs. Simpson's house has been completed. The next meeting will be held on June 8 so this project can continue.

NEW BUSINESS

June Meeting - Mrs. Schirmer will be away on the day of the next scheduled

monthly meeting. All agreed that they would prefer to meet when she can be in attendance. Two chosen alternative dates are Monday, June 22 or Wednesday, June 17, in that order. Mrs. Schirmer will check with Mr. Barnhart and Mrs. Gerfin as to their availability. When a new date is chosen, all will be notified.

Wetland & Tree Cutting Ordinance/Agricultural District - Notification was received that the Town Board unanimously adopted the approved amendments to the Wetland & Tree Cutting Ordinance/Agricultural District at their meeting on April 16, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The June meeting date is to be determined, but it will be held 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
Conservation Board
Planning and Engineering
Parks and Recreation