

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Telephone  
(914) 277-5582  
Fax  
(914) 277-3790

**Town of Somers**  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BARNHART  
CHAIRMAN



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 21, 2015**

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

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Simpson seconded the motion. All were favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**Angle Fly Preserve Updates:**

Two work days were held on April 25 and May 3 at 10:00 a.m. A section of the white trail was reopened. Mr. Barnhart walked most of the trails and they were in good shape.

Mr. Mendoza reported extensive vandalism to the hunting kiosk at the entrance. The police were notified and the damage has been taken care of. A caretaker is definitely needed.

Upcoming work days have been scheduled for May 30 and June 28. The focus will be on the garden around the pond and the green trail.

Mr. Barnhart will reach out to Mr. MacGregor about moving forward on the Reynolds House. He will also speak to the Architect. The next steps should be replacing the roof and removing the addition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Biodiversity Mapping** – The next biodiversity mapping session will be held on June 3.

**Stuart's Farm Update** – On May 7, Mr. Barnhart met with the Town Board. Things are moving along. Next week, Lori Ensinger, Bob Stuart and Mr. Barnhart will meet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**North County Homes/Caracciolo-Festo Wetland, Steep Slope, SMESC and Tree Removal Application** – The Committee reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive On-Site Wastewater Development Plan, as well as the Survey of the Property. They had the following comments: the SSTS profile shows a different grade than the Comprehensive Site Plan, making it difficult to interpret the topography as shown on the SSTS profiles as compared to the Comprehensive Site Plan. In fact, having closely looked at the grade and the extent of lot's steep slopes, the Committee is unclear on why this is considered a developable lot. We would like more information about the new wetlands (their extent, design, and type of plantings). The Committee urges consideration of a pervious surface on the driveway instead of asphalt. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

**Lord Wetland Application** – Renovations and Additions, Drawing No. 1 of 8 and 5 of 7 were reviewed and discussed by the Committee. The only comment was to consider using a rain garden instead of a Cultec recharger to handle the stormwater runoff from the new structure. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

**Greenbriar-Somers Corp. – Section 7, Lots 1 and 2, Wetland/Steep Slope/SMESC/Tree Application** – The Committee reviewed and discussed the Greenbriar-Somers Corp. – Section 7, Lots 1 and 2, Wetland/Steep Slope/SMESC/Tree Application. We would like to know if the Storm Water Prevention Plan poses a risk of reducing flow into the adjoining DEC-registered wetlands. The drying out of wetlands is a recognized and major threat to their health and especially their habitat function. The Committee would like to see evidence that such an impact either does not exist or has been thoroughly mitigated. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

**Somers Pointe Country Club** – Site Plans provided were reviewed and discussed. The Committee would like the developer to consider planting native shrubs and other vegetation such as spice bush to prevent the establishment of invasives such as Japanese barberry. We also recommend construction of a walking path around the perimeter of the non-golf course portion of the site to provide a passive recreation opportunity for the residents of Heritage Hills. We would like to see dark sky compatible lighting around the pool and parking lot.

On page 12 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, letter O asks “Does project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by the federal government or NYS as endangered or threatened, or does it contain any areas identified as habitat for an endangered or threatened species?” and letter P, “Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by NYS as rare, or as a species of special concern?”. The answer to both questions on the form is “no.” The Committee questions this response given no evidence of a proper biodiversity assessment.

A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

**Westchester County's Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Awards Program** – The Town has been invited to submit a nomination to recognize activities and projects that promote soil and water resources conservation, management and restoration. Perhaps the trees for tribs or memory garden in Angle Fly Preserve would qualify. Mr. Barnhart will review the information issued and report back next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 18 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  
Planning Board  
Parks and Recreation Board