

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

MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2009

Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chair Michael Barnhart, Jan Antonucci, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2009 meeting as submitted. Ms. Jones 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 was supposed to take place at the Town House on May 27 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this further. Unfortunately it had to be rescheduled and that date was cancelled as well. Mr. Barnhart will coordinate another date and time with Supervisor Murphy and Bill Rudge. Once this section is finalized the Management Plan will be complete.

Trails: NY/NJ Trail Conference Meeting - The representatives from the NY/NJ Trail Conference walked the trail that Mr. Fulton laid out and they were impressed with it. Mr. Barnhart has to meet with them to establish Friends of Angle Fly as members of their organization. There will be a small fee involved, which will be paid by the Somers Land Trust.

Workday - Mr. Morrissey reported to Ms. Jones via an email that ten volunteers attended the last workday on June 11. They were able to clear about ¼ mile of the trail. A tree fell across a portion of the trail. Mr. Morrissey will cut it up with his chainsaw.

Girl Scouts - Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Van Wart met with the Girl Scouts to discuss the blueberry project. They will be doing this on Thursdays. Rick Bridgham and his son will be working on them on Tuesdays, as part of a Scout project and the Town will water the blueberry bushes on Fridays.

Pond Habitat Restoration - Bob Mac Gregor's wife Pat, created and staked out a plan for the pond at the Reynold's House. Everyone thought the plan was wonderful and should be approved. It will serve as a perfect "welcome" to the Preserve. Mr. Barnhart will send a memo about the proposal to Supervisor Murphy with a copy to the Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston. He will also ask Steve Ralston for Park Maintenance assistance in clearing the path with their Kabota. Mrs. Schirmer will send a memo to the Highway Department to see if they have wood chips that can be used on the path once it is cleared. If not, she will call George Wahlers, owner of Lincolndale Landscaping to see if he has any he can donate.

Native Plants - Mrs. Simpson announced that Ralph Rudolph of Stebbins Road, Mahopac has offered his assistance in obtaining native plants for Angle Fly Preserve.

Recreational Trails Grant - Mr. Barnhart reported that an archaeology study does not have to be done. The New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation people should now be able to draw up the contract for the Recreational Trails Grant so the money can be released. The money saved on the archaeology study can perhaps be used for building the foot bridge.

Tatham House - The New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation representatives indicated that there is a way to designate the Tatham House as a ruin. Mrs. Schirmer will research this further.

Hudsonia Reptile and Amphibians Survey Methods Course - On May 21 and 22, Mr. Barnhart completed the course and learned a lot. Hudsonia is also supposed to be doing a one day workshop in July about planning around biodiversity. To date, he has not received any information. If and when he does, he will forward it to all members.

Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates

St. Joseph's Church at JFK High School - A draft of the Negative Declaration was received, which indicates that there is no negative environmental impact on the construction of this building. At the suggestion of the Open Space Committee, the document included rain gardens, but there was no mention of Cape Cod curbing. Mr. Barnhart will send an email to the Town Planner with a copy to the Conservation Board.

Biodiversity Assessment - The north west section of Somers has been mapped. The topographic maps of the eastern section of Somers have been completed. It appears that a small chunk of the Route 35 corridor is missing. The soil maps have to be done next and the markings have to be standardized, as they differ from those used previously. Mr. Barnhart has all the stereoscopic prints and has to print up the worksheets from the NY DEC website. The aerial

photos will be available at the next meeting, which will be held on August 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Mrs. Antonucci's house.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Jones reviewed the minutes of the last five months, and the following items were discussed:

List of Easements - Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with Sabrina Charney-Hull to see if she can provide a list of easements recognized by the Town.

Conservation Overlay Zone - Mr. Barnhart will send a memo to the Master Plan Committee developing Conservation Overlay Zones.

Endangered Species List - Ms. Jones will continue working on the list by the end of July. She has the Westchester County and State lists to cross reference. Mr. Barnhart also suggested that she reference the Herp Atlas.

Town Website - Mrs. Schirmer will contact Tammi Savva to get an update on the progress of this project.

Digitized Map of Somers - The southern portion of Somers, which was completed as part of the Bedford-Somers Biodiversity Training is being digitized. Eventually all of Somers will be done. Mr. Barnhart is meeting with Erik Kiviat on Wednesday and will discuss this with him. He will also contact Damon Oscarson about the map of Angle Fly Preserve.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Code Update - This item will be discussed at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16 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