

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

MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2010

Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 9:20 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin and Laurretta Jones.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Barnhart to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting as submitted. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Stuart's Farm - The Westchester County Executive is refusing to sign the contract for the New York State Farmland Protection Grant, as he is reluctant in spending the funds. Stuart's Farm in Granite Springs would be protected by this grant. The money could actually be encumbered this year and a decision made in 2011, but if the contract isn't signed the funds will be lost forever. In addition, the Department of Agriculture and Markets has indicated that this offer will not be made again anytime soon.

Zion Donation - The Zion family has offered a 50 acre Mahopac Avenue land donation to the Westchester Land Trust. Mr. Mac Gregor attended the site tour. In order to get a tax deduction, an appraisal has to be conducted and paid for by the property owner, not the WLT, as it is against the law for them to do so. A lot line change would also have to be done. No one is sure of the status of this offer at present. Mr. Barnhart reminded all that if this does come to fruition, the WLT would allow the SLT to oversee this property and conservation insurance should really be secured by the SLT.

Teatown Reservation Conference - Teatown Reservation will be sponsoring a conference at Hotel Thayer on November 19, 20 and 21 entitled "Regional Approaches to Conservation". Mr. Barnhart is on the Planning Committee and has offered our assistance. Updates will continue.

Angle Fly Workday Updates and Planning - At the July 11 workday, the plank walkway leading to the foot bridge was completed. Plans are underway for purchasing the foot bridge. Work will begin on the next trail loop on July 31. The upcoming workday schedule is as follows: Saturday, July 31; Saturday, August 14; Sunday, August 29; Saturday, September 11; and Sunday, September 26.

At the next meeting, the fall schedule will be set.

Brendan Murphy has replaced Andy Hubbard as the new local Forester for the Watershed Agricultural Council. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mac Gregor will meet with Mr. Murphy in August. One of the topics of discussion will be the Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Hunting Tests - Hunting Coordinator Bob Mendoza will be handling the hunting aspects (conducting hunter proficiency tests and orientations, and handling record keeping for hunting activity on Angle Fly). Although there wasn't a lot of activity during spring turkey hunting, the reverse is expected for fall deer hunting. The Hunting Committee will meet again shortly to discuss the fall deer hunting season.

Mapping Update - The Committee met on July 5 and was joined by four Bedford CAC members. Hudsonia still has some of our aerial photos. The northern section of Town is almost complete. Some stereoscopic photos of the middle section of Town are missing. A full day mapping meeting will be scheduled for August. Mr. Barnhart is finishing up some of the worksheets, but there are more to be completed. Field visits and map creation are the remaining two steps of the project.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

A reporter from the Journal News contacted Mr. Barnhart to get a comment about the remediation as a brown field site, that is being planned for Granite Point. He wasn't aware of it. Mr. Barnhart also reported that while reviewing the Town Planner's Quarterly Report, there was mention of a discussion that took place about a bald eagle's nest at Granite Point.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

2011 Budget - At the request of the Supervisor, the 2011 Budget worksheets are due by August 27. Once again, the Committee will request \$1,000 in salary for the Secretary and \$1,000 in contractual for memberships, workshops, supplies and training.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House. The Committee will not meet in August.

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