

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

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2009

Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chairs Michael Barnhart and Rick Morrissey, Jan Antonucci, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2009 meeting as submitted. Ms. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Workday - The last workday was July 11 and trail clearing continued. There is still a little more than a mile that has to be completed. It was evident that more supervision is needed as the trail is cleared. Some of the workers re-routed the trail rather than move around obstacles. Ms. Jones suggested that some simple instructions be typed up and distributed. She will circulate a draft. Barberry has become an issue and has to be dealt with. Any potential erosion issues have to be addressed as well. Mr. Barnhart will contact John Genovese of Trout Unlimited to see if they can assist with building a boardwalk on the trail. Side hilling will be required on the next section that has to be cleared and water bars have to be built as well. The new Volunteer Sign In log was used to keep track of the volunteer hours.

Past Open Space Committee member, Anita Krusko suggested an idea and draft for a banner to be hung at the entrance to Angle Fly on the scheduled workdays so that the public had an idea as to what is going on. All agreed that it was a good idea. Ms. Jones designed it and had it made in time to be hung at the workday.

The fencing around the condos is now completed. No Trespassing signs still have to be hung.

Some minimal signage needs to be done. The Assistant Park Foreman will be able to assist in this endeavor, as he made the signs in the other Town parks.

Mr. Barnhart will speak to Ed Hicks about making a signboard that has a map of Angle Fly with the trail loop designated.

Meeting With Parks and Recreation - Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones met with Steve Ralston at Angle Fly. The pond habitat restoration plan was discussed. He suggested rather than clear the grass away and lay woodchips for the path, consideration be given to mowing the grass extremely close to the ground, applying weed killer and covering the path with stone dust. Mr. Ralston also wondered whether or not the path could qualify as an ADA trail. He sent information to Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Jones to review. Last month, we had asked Mr. Ralston for assistance from his staff and their Kubota. Although he would be happy to lend the help, this is a very busy time of the year for his parks maintenance staff. He did however, offer use of the Kubota if needed.

NY/NJ Trails Conference - The Somers Land Trust/Friends of Angle Fly is now an affiliate organization of the NY/NJ Trails Conference. The fee to do so was \$50.00. Christie Ferguson is willing to send an email blast to the volunteers to alert them of upcoming workdays. The schedule through September is as follows: Sunday, August 9; Saturday, August 29; Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 27. Ms. Ferguson has estimated that the 40' foot bridge will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to build. She is also researching the amount of ground disturbance that may occur as a result of its construction. Steve Ralston is waiting for the contract for the trails grant, which is just under \$75,000. Some of that money will be used for the foot bridge.

Property Line Changes - The Town did redraw the property lines for the 15 acres at Angle Fly to include the Reynolds House and the outbuildings.

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 tentative meeting date of July 23 at 3:00 p.m. was proposed by the Supervisor's office. Mrs. Schirmer will confirm the date and time, and inform Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Morrissey. Once this section is finalized the Management Plan will be complete.

Somers Land Trust - The project list that Bob Mac Gregor created will be updated at the next Land Trust meeting, which will be on Thursday, July 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House. October 1 has been set as the opening day for the public at Angle Fly Preserve. The Land Trust became members of the Somers Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Barnhart attended a recent event that they held at Bailey Court. He was able to share with people the plans for Angle Fly. A lot of good will was expressed. The YMCA was very excited about it, as they would like to bring their members to Angle Fly for program opportunities.

Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates

St. Joseph's Church at JFK High School - An updated site plan was received. The Open Space Committee still has concerns regarding the trails, rain gardens and Cape Cod curbing. Mr. Barnhart will draft another memo to the Planning Board.

Biodiversity Assessment - 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 from June. A few items were brought up and updates given.

NEW BUSINESS

Hudsonia Workshop - Mr. Barnhart received an email from Andrew Meyer of Hudsonia regarding a workshop about incorporating biodiversity into planning. It will be held at Norrie Point on Saturday, August 1. The email will be forwarded to the Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The Committee will not meet in August. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17 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