

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BARNHART
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2015

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mrs. VanWart seconded the motion. All were favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

The Reynolds House was broken into and vandalized twice. A police report will be filed. Repairs have been made and areas secured. This reinforces the need for a caretaker. Security cameras will be installed and under surveillance signs hung. All Friends and members will be made aware of this situation with instructions to notify the police if anything seems suspicious. An article will be submitted to the paper as well.

Mr. Barnhart met with one of the Town Maintenance Mechanic's about the siding and roof projects at the Reynolds House. He also visited the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park to see how they handled the siding there. The Lions have donated money for a new roof. Mr. Barnhart will meet with the Architect. He also has a friend who is available to volunteer his time to work on these projects. Mr. Barnhart will also talk to the Building Inspector about moving forward with the roof and siding.

Summer workdays for trail and garden work are as follows: July 25, August 9 and 29.

Mr. Barnhart will talk to member Carl Gebauer about helping out with overseeing the trails during Mr. MacGregor's absence.

There was a guided stream walk along the Angle Fly Brook on July 12, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. It was made possible through a grant from H2H. The event was a great success. About 30 to 40 people attended.

On Sunday, Mrs. Gerfin, Ms. Jones, and Mrs. Van Wart will meet with two Somers High School students who are interested in volunteering at Angle Fly. They will all work on weeding the garden area.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Mapping Update – Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia presented the 1st digitized map. The map and spreadsheet of questions will be placed in Drop Box. On July 3, some Committee members walked the old Putnam Division line to answer some of the questions Ms. Stevens had. At the next meeting on August 7, additional site visits will be done in an effort to answer more questions. All agreed that it made sense to work in teams of two to explore areas further. For those that are not easily accessible, Bing can be utilized.

Stuart's Farm Update – On July 1, Mr. Barnhart and Councilman Cirieco met with Westchester Land Trust's Lori Ensinger. The State will contribute 60%; up to \$375,000 will come from Scenic Hudson, \$400,000 from the County, \$300,000 hopefully from the Town and the rest from the Westchester Land Trust. The RFP still hasn't been released. Once it has, the application has to be completed within 60 days.

Westchester County's Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Awards Program – The Open Space Committee has been invited to participate in this awards program. Applications are due by October 2. Suggestions include the Stream Restoration Along Reynolds Run and the Memory Forest.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be 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
Planning Board
Parks and Recreation Board