

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Telephone  
(914) 277-3637  
Fax  
(914) 276-0082

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

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BARNHART  
CHAIRMAN



**MEETING MINUTES**

**July 19, 2012**

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

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2012 meeting as submitted. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**ANGLE FLY PRESERVE UPDATES:**

A small bog bridge has been built over the drainage ditch on the blue trail by Route 35.

There is still more clearing that has to be done in the Memory Tree Garden. This is proving to be a very large project that will, however, open up the possibility for other projects.

The bog bridging on the yellow trail by the beaver pond still has to be done, but the log benches have been made.

A large wood order has been placed, including what is needed for the DEP bridge.

On July 28, the sign for the tree planting project along Route 139 will be installed.

The path in front of the composting toilet by the pond has been leveled and now makes that toilet handicap accessible. It was suggested that signs be posted in the composting toilets that indicate that the lid should be put down when finished, as the ones provided are very difficult to read since the print is so small.

About 6" of water was collected in the rain garden after the heavy storm last Sunday.

The signatures needed from the volunteers who worked on the trails are almost done being collected. Once this task is complete, the Recreational Trails Grant can be closed out.

A plaque still has to be made to thank Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc. for the bluestone patio and fieldstone wall and stairs that they built by the chicken coop in Angle Fly. Mr. MacGregor will provide the wording, Ms. Jones will create the artwork and proof it, and Mrs. Schirmer will work with Mr. Ralston on ordering it from Crown Trophy.

On September 15 at 10:00 a.m., a dedication ceremony will take place at Angle Fly to dedicate the Reynolds House/Pond area to Mickey Oliver; yellow trail to Peter Burckmyer and foot bridge to John Behler. Some have already been invited to the Dedication. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with the remainder that should be invited, including the Town Board.

#### **PROPERTIES OF CONCERN:**

All were given a copy of the Open Space Committee's properties list. There are several properties of concern. A memo was last sent to the Town Board in 2009 regarding these properties. Copies of the memo were distributed and discussed. All agreed to add the Amato property. Mr. Barnhart will rework the introduction on the memo and it will be resent to the Town Board.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Amending Conservation Easement** – A few months ago, a request was made to amend the conservation easement to swap a piece of property, designated for active recreation, from behind the Somers Manor Nursing Home with the lot behind the tennis courts at Reis Park. It is unlikely that an appraisal will have to be done. NYS DEC's lawyers are in the process of drafting paperwork to amend the conservation easement and the Town will begin a parallel process. Mr. Barnhart will contact Paul Elconin for an update.

**Biodiversity Mapping** – Arrangements have been made to access the IBM property to do field verification. There was a bit of a delay because Town Board approval was needed for the Supervisor to sign a required agreement between IBM and the Town to allow this to happen. Mr. Barnhart has notified IBM that the site visit will be done on July 27. All agreed to meet at the Town House at 9 a.m. Mr. Barnhart will bring all necessary supplies needed, as well as a camera.

Mr. Barnhart has been in touch with the Farm Manager at Stonewall Farms regarding access to that property to do field verification there as well. Mr. Barnhart will canvas all for dates that they are available and will make the arrangements for a site visit at that location.

**Meeting with the New Town Assessor and Planner** – This will be discussed again at the September meeting, and arrangements will be made to meet with the new Town Assessor and Planner. In the meantime, they will be copied on the properties of concern memo that is sent to the Town Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2013 Budget** – At the request of the Supervisor, all 2013 Budget requests have to be submitted by August 17. As in previous years, a budget will be submitted for a total of \$2,000, which includes \$1,000 for personal and \$1,000 for contractual.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20 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  
Town Planner  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Planning Board