

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 21, 2011**

Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order. The following members were in attendance: Michael Barnhart, Laretta Jones, Bob MacGregor and Gail Simpson.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. MacGregor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**ANGLE FLY PRESERVE & SOMERS LAND TRUST UPDATES:**

**Work Days and Angle Fly Preserve Updates** – Work continues on the trails that are not on DEP property. All are in good shape and trail intersection signs are being installed.

The composting toilets have been ordered and delivery is expected the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August. Mr. MacGregor will set up a special day to do this installation with the assistance of the Lions Club.

There may be still an opportunity for a corporate volunteer day. If so, completion of the lower loop on the green trail will be the project.

A walk through at Angle Fly will be done tomorrow with DEP representatives, Mr.

Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor concerning the trails on their portion of the property.

Workdays for the remainder of the year have been set as follows: September 18; October 1, 16 and 29; and November 13.

A fall hunting meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Mr. Barnhart recently met with a reporter and photographer at Angle Fly for a story they were doing on DEP East-of-Hudson funding.

**Reynolds House** – A meeting took place between Mr. MacGregor, Supervisor Murphy, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Ralston, Parks and Recreation Board Chair Papa and member Mr. Boniello to discuss the future of the Reynolds House. The Supervisor would like to ultimately use this House as an affordable housing unit, as well as a caretaker's residence, especially in light of the recent vandalism. Ultimately it is the Town Board's decision as to what is done, but cannot be made until costs are determined. Hopefully donations of goods and services will help offset the cost and the use of any Recreation Fees. Mr. MacGregor has the necessary information regarding costs of a building rehabilitation and Mr. Boniello has offered to provide what is needed for costing out a tear down and new construction. If this route is taken, the new construction would closely reflect what currently exists, minus the newer addition to the House.

**ELLA Stream Project Presentation** – A presentation for the public has to be done as per the requirements of the ELLA Stream Project. It has been set for Saturday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the Town House Meeting Room.

**Security Cameras** – Mrs. Simpson will recirculate via email the information about security cameras to be installed at Angle Fly to deal with the recent vandalism. A sign will be posted as well. An email vote will be made as to a purchase of a camera(s).

**Transferring Assets to the Town** – Assets donated to Angle Fly Preserve will be transferred to the Town quarterly or semi-annually through a consensus acceptance. Mr. MacGregor will be seeking guidance as to how Ms. Jones should properly reflect this on the Treasurer's Reports.

**ELLA Stream Project Sign** – Forester Brendan Murphy of the Watershed Agricultural Council will be placing a 2' by 3' sign, low to the ground at Angle Fly Preserve by the tree tubes and plantings along Route 139. The purpose of the sign is to explain the different plantings and provide information on the habitat issues.

**Congratulations** – Friday, July 1 was designated as Michael Barnhart Day in Westchester County. Mr. Barnhart's name was on the marquee in front of the

Westchester County Center. We are all so very proud of him and thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the Town of Somers and especially for his efforts at Angle Fly Preserve.

### **BIODIVERSITY MAPPING & HUDSONIA TRAINING**

The initial stages of biodiversity mapping have been completed, and the subcommittee is ready to conduct field verification. Hudsonia will conduct a training session on August 4 on field verification. The cost is \$620 and will be paid for out of the Contractual budget line. Mr. Barnhart will secure an invoice and Mrs. Schirmer will process a voucher for payment. Conservation Board member Mrs. Hantman will also be attending the training. Copies of selected maps will be needed for training purposes. Ms. Jones will drop them to Mrs. Schirmer so they can be copied.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Westchester County Endangered Species List** – The Committee will ask the Town Board to adopt the Westchester County Endangered Species List as per the recommendation of Michael Klemens in the 2007 Croton to Highlands Biodiversity Plan: Somers Addendum, as commissioned by the Town. Mrs. Schirmer will circulate the list to the Committee and write a memo to the Town Board.

**2012 Budget** – At the request of the Supervisor, the 2012 Budget is due by August 15. Salaries are to remain the same and the Committee will request the same amount in Contractual, which is traditionally used for training workshops. Mrs. Schirmer will submit all required paperwork.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15 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

Conservation Board  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Planning Board