

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2010

Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 9:15 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Laretta Jones, Bob Mac Gregor and Gail Simpson.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Jones to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Barnhart seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Stuart's Farm Update - 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. A meeting was held and Mr. Barnhart suggested that a petition be created to urge the County to sign the contract. All agreed and Mr. Barnhart drafted one that could be used. It is currently at Stuart's Farm for signatures from their patrons. A suggestion was made to have a petition at our workdays as well.

ELLA Conference - Teatown Reservation is sponsoring the ELLA Conference to be held at the Hotel Thayer in West Point on November 19, 20 and 21. Although it will not include a presentation on Angle Fly this year, it provides a good networking opportunity. All agreed that our presence would be beneficial. If Mr. Barnhart is able to attend for the day, he will, on our behalf.

Granite Pointe - There has been some indication by a few residents that the Town should entertain a motion to purchase Granite Pointe. Supervisor Murphy, Mr. Barnhart and Tom Anderson of Westchester Land Trust met to discuss this idea and while no final decision has been made at this time, the Town is not actively making or pursuing any offers.

Angle Fly Preserve Workday Updates and Planning - The upcoming workday schedule is as follows: Sunday, September 26, Monday, October 11, Saturday, October 23 (to coordinate with the nationwide "Make a Difference Day"), Sunday,

November 7 and Saturday, November 20.

Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc. is in the process of building a terrace around the chicken coop. They will be installing a 16' by 20' blue stone pad, steps up to the coop and a u-shaped stone wall around the back for sitting purposes. They are also interested in dredging the pond in December, unless we can secure someone else to do it in the meantime. The Lion's Club will be painting the chicken coop white (the original color) this weekend.

A proposal was submitted to the Rotary Club for three large stone benches and plantings around those benches. They will be placed between the barn and the pond.

The RFP for the foot bridge has been completed. Responses should be received by the 1st week in October. Hopefully delivery will take place in December.

Mr. Mac Gregor is in the process of completing the specifications for the composting toilet.

At the last workday, the blue trail from Reis Park to Route 139 was worked on. About 30 people were present, of which 12 to 15 were Boy Scouts from Troop 376. A bridge over the drainage ditch is in the process of being constructed. A couple of grass areas have to be weed whacked, some edging has to be done, and then the Plumbrook Road to Reis Park section can be blazed. Work can begin on the green trail (behind Somers Manor to Route 100) at the next workday. The Cross Country Team and Boy Scouts, as well as their adult chaperones will be participating. A lot should be accomplished.

A thought for the future was to have groups such as the Cross Country Team and Boy Scout Troop 376 adopt a trail for maintenance purposes. All agreed this was a good idea.

Angle Fly Preserve Hunting Update - Plans are underway to prepare for the fall turkey and deer hunting season. To date, 136 hunters were qualified at the August sessions and one additional session will be held on Sunday, September 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Orientation will be held on Friday, September 24 at the Somers Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m. All will receive photo ID's, as well as parking permits with important phone numbers listed on one side. Committee Head Bob Mendoza thought perhaps selling t-shirts to the hunters would be a beneficial fundraiser. Two examples were presented and all agreed on one. An application was submitted to obtain permits that enable the hunters to take more than the official DEC limit for deer, as Angle Fly is being inundated by deer.

Biodiversity Mapping Update - The Committee met on August 16 and much was accomplished. Mr. Barnhart will be obtaining additional ortho photos. The

group can potentially be done with the preliminary mapping by the end of the year and field visits done in the spring. Work will continue on September 29. Other local organizations, such as the Land Trust Alliance have shown some interest in supporting biodiversity mapping.

Planning and Conservation Board Updates

Mr. Barnhart and Mike Rubbo of Teatown Reservation met with the Somers Conservation Board on September 14 to encourage involvement with ELLA. This is being done for all local Conservation Boards. A couple of the members were interested in getting involved, which should prove to be very helpful, as ELLA can assist them with evaluating site plans, applying standards, etc. and workshops to do the same are being planned.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

New Committee Member - Mr. Barnhart was approached by the Town Supervisor with regard to a new Town resident that is interested in getting involved on one of the Boards/Committees. The Town Board interviewed him and recommended that he might join the Open Space Committee. Mr. Barnhart will invite him to attend the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21 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