

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2009**

Co-Chair Michael Barnhart called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance: Co-Chair Michael Barnhart, Jan Antonucci, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones and Gail Simpson.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Barnhart to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Antonucci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Chair's Report**

**Angle Fly Preserve Work Days** - A lot was accomplished at the last work day on Saturday, September 12. The trail construction continued and building of the boardwalks began. Projects Committee Head Bob Mac Gregor provided the Somers Land Trust with a list of what needs to be done before the opening on October 3 and a supply list was issued. Remaining work days for the year are Sunday, September 27; Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, November 8 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

A short section of the trail has to be rerouted because it goes over the boundary of Angle Fly. This will be done at the next workday.

**NY/NJ Trails Conference** - Communications have been ongoing with Christie Ferguson and Eddie Walsh of the NY/NJ Trails Conference. Mr. Barnhart received trail building information that he shared with the members, and he also has Power Points that can be distributed via email.

Mr. Barnhart had given the workday schedule to Christie Ferguson of the NY/NJ Trails Conference. They were supposed to include it in their trails magazine. In addition, they were going to provide volunteers for the Angle Fly trail building. None of their volunteers showed up at the last work day, and Ms. Jones, who is a member of their organization did not notice anything in their correspondences or get an email.

The NY/NJ Trails Conference still has to execute their deliverables as part of their contract with the Town. Ms. Ferguson is leaving NY/NJ Trails Conference at the end of the month, and she has a lot to do before she leaves. Mr. Barnhart will meet with her replacement to discuss what has yet to be completed.

**Hunting Update** - Another meeting has to take place regarding the hunting requirements at Angle Fly Preserve. DEC's Bill Rudge suggested supporting bow hunting only for deer and turkey. He passed this by the Sportsman Advisory Committee and they would like turkey hunting with a gun permitted as well. This topic will be discussed at the meeting. If necessary, another strategy will be explored.

**Permits** - The Town Engineer had indicated that a wetland permit was needed to complete the trails at Angle Fly. DEC representative Bill Rudge didn't think a permit was necessary from his organization. Mr. Barnhart attended the September Town Board meeting to discuss this situation and the Town Board resolved that all trail building at Angle Fly Preserve is exempt from Town permits. However, a water protection permit will be required from DEC for the foot bridge construction.

### **Conservation/Planning/Town Board Updates**

**Angle Fly Preserve Naming Issues** - Conservation Board member Ed Merker approached Mr. Barnhart about naming "something" at Angle Fly Preserve after John Behler. Mr. Behler was a Conservation Board member and instrumental in assisting the Town with this property acquisition. He also served on the Management Plan Committee until his untimely passing. Mr. Morrissey suggested naming the following for Mr. Behler: the turtle habitat area; the field opposite the trails; a gazebo or bench to be placed in that field; the pond area; a trail or the foot bridge. All agreed that since the foot bridge will pass over the turtle habitat, and John Behler had a passion for turtles, that might be ideal. Mr. Mac Gregor suggested a future plaque with a picture and bio of Mr. Behler. A future ceremony would take place as well. Mr. Barnhart will talk to Mr. Merker and see if he concurs.

Additionally, previous discussions had taken place about naming the first trail loop for past Somers Land Trust Board member and Open Space Committee member Peter Burckmyer. Peter was also instrumental in assisting with this land acquisition, and he too passed on suddenly. A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci to name the yellow trail at Angle Fly Preserve the Peter Burckmyer Memorial Trail. It was seconded by Mrs. Simpson. All were in favor.

**St. Joseph's Church at JFK High School** - An updated site plan was received. Mrs. Gerfin will review it and bring anything new to the Committee at the next meeting.

### **Biodiversity Assessment**

Mr. Barnhart met with Damon Oscarson of Westchester Land Trust. Unfortunately they do not have infrared pictures on their GIS. Copies of the Biodiversity Handbook explaining how to procure the needed orthophotos from

NYS GIS were forwarded to Mr. Oscarson. Worksheets that are 8 ½ by 11” in size are needed for the entire Town. In the interim, additional work needs to be done. The next two meetings are set for November 12 and December 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Mrs. Antonucci's house.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Conservation Easement List** - The Town Planner provided the Committee with a Conservation Easement List. The Committee would still like to know who the easement holders are in an effort to determine the conservation potential for each property, and also would like a list of the vacant Town owned properties. A memo with the current list attached will be sent to Sabrina Charney-Hull.

**Master Plan Update** - A suggestion was made to the Town Planner to finish mapping Somers' biodiversity and develop either proposals for conservation overlay districts or an overall open space/conservation plan. Sabrina Charney-Hull agreed that it was a great idea and asked that the Committee provide details that she can incorporate into the next revision of the Master Plan Update. This will be completed in October.

**St. Joseph's Church at JFK H.S.** - The Committee recommended Cape Cod curbing and inclusion of Klemen's publication on best development practices especially in regard to storm water systems and the threat they present to amphibians and turtles. To date there has been no update. An email will be sent to the Town Planner requesting one. Mr. Barnhart will also provide the Town Planner with a copy of the Klemen's publication.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2010 Proposed Budget** - At the request of the Town Supervisor, the 2010 Proposed Budget was submitted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 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

Conservation Board  
Planning and Engineering  
Parks and Recreation