

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

September 20, 2012

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting as submitted. Ms. Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

ANGLE FLY PRESERVE UPDATES:

A dedication ceremony took 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. There was a nice turnout.

A Fall Scavenger Hunt fundraising event will be held on October 20, with a rain date of the 21. Final details were discussed and shared with all. Some publicity has already been done.

The bog bridging scout project on the yellow trail by the beaver pond still has to be done, but the log benches have been made. Another scout is cleaning the trails and the one working on the memory tree project has ordered the trees, and the planting will take place this fall. A new scout proposal is in the works to build a garden next to the poultry barn.

Downed trees have been removed and trails cleared.

DEP approval to build the bridge near Route 35 has not yet been secured, but is expected shortly.

The Route 35 kiosk is up and a map has been attached to it.

All dedication plaques have been installed.

Deer hunting begins on October 1 this year (two weeks earlier) and ends on December 31. Two hundred hunters have been qualified, but only 100 attended the required orientation. The first year, 15 deer were taken and 21 last year. It is the hope that 35 will be taken this season.

A kiosk specifically for hunter information has been installed and the map will be attached next week.

The hunters were issued a flyer regarding the Mile-A-Minute invasive in an effort to help identify all areas where it is located in the Preserve. At this point it is pretty widespread. The flyer has also been posted on the Town website and is being sent out via various email list serves. In early spring, the Somers Land Trust hopes that a Town-wide swat team will be created to deal with the infestations on both Town and School property. The environmental studies department at the High School has made a commitment to get involved. It would be ideal if all Town Departments who do site visits in the field would look out for this invasive. Mr. MacGregor will email Mrs. Schirmer the flyer and she will get it out to everyone.

Thanks to the recommendation of residents Donna and Nino Persic, an Architect from Shrub Oak, Michael Piccirillo has offered his services pro bono to measure the Reynolds House; submit design proposals to renovate; and help solicit tradesmen who will be willing to hopefully donate their services and/or supplies. The goal is to have all the work done by volunteers and donations. A commitment has been made by the Town to give up to \$100,000 from the Recreation Fee account. Once this project starts to move along, there will have to be a lot of organizing; constant communication; and fundraising done. Mr. MacGregor will email Supervisor Murphy about this generous offer.

OLD BUSINESS

Biodiversity Mapping – Arrangements were made to access the IBM property to do field verification. Mr. Barnhart will write up a report of the findings, including recommendations. It will be shared with IBM and the Town Board.

Mr. Barnhart has been in touch with the Peter Moore, Farm Manager at Stonewall Farms regarding access to that property to do field verification. It was requested that a

write up as to the reason for needing access to the property be sent. As this is not an ideal time of the year for field verification, Mr. Barnhart will call Mr. Moore and make arrangements to do a site visit in the early spring.

Meeting with New Town Planner – Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor will be meeting with the new Town Planner Syrette Dym on October 3.

Meeting with New Town Assessor – The new Town Assessor Teresa Stegner has agreed to meet with the Committee at either the October or November meeting. Mrs. Schirmer will confirm.

NEW BUSINESS

Stuart's Farm – Since the County refused to get involved, Mr. Barnhart set up a meeting with the Westchester Land Trust, Supervisor Murphy and Mr. Stuart in an effort to brainstorm some options. The property is 170 acres, consisting of farm land, wetlands and forests. Mr. Stuart will work on securing alternative options to save the forest and wetland portions of the property. The Town is still committed to provide money to support efforts to protect the farmlands sections of the property. Mr. Barnhart sent an email to Bill Rudge at NYS DEC to discuss this further.

2013 Budget – At the request of the Town Supervisor, the 2013 proposed budget was submitted. There was no increase to the total of \$2,000, which covers the secretary's salary, as well as money for training and supplies.

Railroad Avenue – A resolution was received from the Town Board regarding a request from Mary Broderick and Stephen Perry to purchase a portion of Railroad Avenue. All agreed that the request should be denied due to the proximity of the rail trail. A memo will be sent to the Town Board.

The Mews at Baldwin Place – Phase II – Committee members reviewed a site plan for Phase II of The Mews at Baldwin Place. Comment will be made as the project progresses via the Planning Board process.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18 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