

OCTOBER 8, 2015 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening October 8, 2015, at 7:10 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Rick Morrissey
	Councilman	Richard G. Clinchy
	Councilman	Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.
	Councilman	Anthony J. Cirieco
	Councilman	William G. Faulkner

ABSENT:

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor explained that this was a public hearing with regard to a proposal to modify the Conservation Easement of the Angle Fly Preserve.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Journal News on September 29, 2015 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

The Supervisor declared the hearing open and asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Michael Barnhardt, stated that he was present that evening on behalf of the Somers Land Trust and the Somers Open Space Committee and they were very glad that after several years of trying to pursue this it was finally happening. The Supervisor asked Mr. Barnhardt if he would explain what they were overall trying to accomplish. Mr. Barnhardt stated that the purpose of the easement was to find a suitable location for a possible ballfield construction. He said that was always part of the Angle Fly Purchase Agreement and originally the site for that was located in a meadow area to the west of the Somers Manor Property on top of a ridgeline. He said that this was written into the Conservation Easement although when the property was studied and a management plan was devised they decided it was a poor location for many different reasons. Mr. Barnhardt continued that they decided in consultation with Somers Parks and Recreation Department and the Somers Parks and Recreation Board on a better location for ballfields and that property was adjacent to Reis Park. He said that the site was far less sensitive from an Environmental point of view. He said that they approached the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) and found out the process for actually changing a Conservation Easement was extremely laborious. Mr. Barnhardt said that the process began under a former Supervisor only to stall until a Somers Resident got involved and contacted the State until they were willing to assist the Town. He said that they finally came up with a strategy where they could avoid the function of the State Legislator to change the Conservation Easement and simply effect a change to the language in the Easement itself. He explained that it was almost as simple as changing two letter designations by swapping their locations. Mr. Barnhardt explained that what the Board was doing was almost the final step and they had every hope that this would resolve the issue.

The Supervisor thanked Mr. Barnhardt for his work on this and moving to the position where they were having a public hearing with regard to the matter.

There being no one else to be heard on motion of Supervisor Morrissey, seconded by Councilman Cirieco, the public comment session was declared closed at 7:15 PM.

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Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening October 8, 2015 at 7:17 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Rick Morrissey
	Councilman	Richard G. Clinchy
	Councilman	Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.
	Councilman	Anthony J. Cirieco
	Councilman	William G. Faulkner

ABSENT:

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor said that this was a public hearing with regard to the proposed placement of stop signs at the southwest and the southeast corners of Eastern Way and Buenta Way.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Somers Record on September 24, 2015 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

The Supervisor declared the hearing open and asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Arnold Folberth, Purdys Resident, said that several years ago there was a representative present at a meeting from the New York State Department of Highways or Public Safety. He said that they explained the statistics about stop signs and he stated that more accidents were caused at 4-way stop signs than at intersections without stop signs. He said that he agreed with the stop sign at Buenta Way but there were other stops sign in Lake Purdys and throughout Somers that needed to be removed.

Miss Megan Coughlin, Eastern Way, said that her friend and herself walk across the street without their parents and they always saw speeding on their street. She said that it was dangerous for little children. She said that the stop sign signs should be placed because there were elderly people and children walking, playing and jogging on the road.

Miss Ella MacSweeney, Buenta Way, said that that she bike rides on the road with her friends and they see people speeding on the road. She said that they should place a stop sign in that location so someone doesn't get hurt.

Ms. Nadine MacSweeney, Buenta Way, said that along with the other parents on Buenta Way she started the petition for stop signs. She said that there were 11 children that used that corner going to and from the bus stop. She said that they were looking for the stop signs to be placed at the intersection of Buenta Way and Eastern Way. Ms. MacSweeney stated that the speeding was the biggest issue in the neighborhood.

Miss Caitlyn Jonika, Eastern Way, said she always is bike riding with her friends and they see people speeding all of the time. She said that a stop sign was needed on Eastern Way.

Ms. Shine, Buenta Way, said that she and her husband live on the corner of Buenta Way and Eastern Way and they cared a lot about the children in their neighborhood. She said that they were against the stop signs being placed because that the most dangerous thing in the neighborhood was not the cars speeding but children and adults riding ATVs on the roads.

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Ms. Gina Arena, Buenta Way, said that this was a very dangerous corner with no visibility. She said that this was used as a short cut and a lot of cars speed through the area.

Mr. William MacSweeney, Alden Way, said that he had lived in that neighborhood for over 40 years and that street was always quiet. He said that the past year he had two incidents on Buenta Way.

Mr. Jason Warner, Buenta Way, said that he wrote a letter against the stop signs to the Board. He said that he did not have any objection to the stop sign although the main issue was visibility. He said that the children in the neighborhood needed to be educated on proper street safety and urged the children to walk on their grass when walking to the bus stop.

Mr. Folberth agreed with Mr. Warner about the visibility. He said that shrubbery was cut down on one side of the road but not the other.

The Supervisor said that the Town Board had received emails from residents objecting to the stop signs. He said that the Police, Highway Superintendent and Town Engineer only looked at this intersection. He said that what he was hearing was that there was a bigger issue. The Supervisor said that they should look at all of the intersections in Lake Purdys and place the stop signs where they were appropriate.

Ms. Sara Gordon, Entrance Way, said that there was not one good reason to not want a stop sign in this area.

Jennifer Coughlin, Eastern Way, said that she lived on the corner of Eastern Way and Buenta Way and she watches people speed around the corner often times with tires screeching.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Morrissey, seconded by Councilman Garrity, the public hearing was declared closed at 8:00 PM.

Town Clerk