

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
(914) 277-5582
Fax
(914) 277-3790

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2017

Chair Emil Antonaccio opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Town Supervisor Rick Morrissey, Town Historian Doris Jane Smith and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman were present.

Architectural Review Board member Mark Brown, and resident Architect Ken Bond were absent.

New Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman was welcomed. Former Chairman Jim Papa has relocated.

Minutes – The minutes of the May 25, 2017 Historic Properties Board meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum of those present at that meeting in attending this evening.

Eagle Scout Project – Troop 228 Boy Scout Max Caron presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Board for review and approval. He wants to restore Carolyn Wright-Reis' (now owned by the Town) Model T Ford. His proposal included information about himself, the objective of the project, the project plan, and a list of parts needed, as well as the cost estimate. The work will be done in Somers Historical Society Board member Arnie Guyot's garage and he will also oversee the project. A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey to approve the project proposal as submitted. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Grant Application for Historic Markers – Mr. Antonaccio had been working with the

Grant R Us folks on a grant application for historic markers to be placed at the Mt. Zion Church, Tomahawk Chapel, Stone House, Elephant Hotel and Business Historic Preservation District. Unfortunately the signs that would have been provided wouldn't have been the correct type, so an application was never submitted.

Gazebo in Bailey Park – The Gazebo in Bailey Park renovation project is almost complete. A weather vane has been placed on the roof, a sign erected and benches in the process of being built. The Somers Historical Society plans to have a dedication concert at some point and all donors will be recognized.

Wright-Reis Homestead and Possessions – On November 10, 2016, the Somers Historical Society sent the Somers Historic Properties Board a letter requesting that:

- a) The Town of Somers grant a lease for use of the Wright-Reis Homestead (house, outbuildings and site) to the Somers Historical Society similar to that for the use of the Third Floor of the Elephant Hotel.
- b) The Town of Somers transfer ownership of Caroline Wright Reis' possessions (contents of the house and outbuildings, with the exception of the two vehicles, 1917 Model T Ford and 1941 Nash, which are licensed and insured by the Town).

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Bond to request that the Town Board authorize the Town Attorney to meet with Margaret Nicholson, Somers Historical Society's Attorney to prepare the necessary documents. All were in favor.

A memo with a copy of the letter of request was sent to the Town Board, and a Resolution authorizing the Town Attorney to meet with Somers Historical Society's Attorney Margaret Nicholson to prepare necessary documents to grant a lease of the Wright-Reis Homestead and transfer ownership of Caroline Wright-Reis' possessions was adopted. The Somers Historical Society is willing to insure the possessions.

The Town Attorney and Mrs. Nicholson met a few times and unfortunately as a result of some logistics this can't happen right now.

Tree Removal – One large and four small locust trees were removed from the property by Walter and Sons Tree Service.

Wright-Reis Homestead Remaining Projects 2017 – The back of the horse barn has to be replaced and the sliding doors rehung. Mr. Dammeyer will do that work. The water heater has to be removed and an instantaneous unit put under the kitchen sink; as well as a frost free outlet installed outside. These projects can be completed by the Town contracted plumber. At some point, Mr. Morrissey would like to get a price to install two ductless air handlers to heat and cool the Homestead in an effort to discontinue using the electric heat.

2018 Budget – The 2018 budget was prepared. A review and discussion ensued. It will remain the same as last year and will be submitted as requested on September 1. A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Morrissey to accept the 2018 budget as submitted. All were in favor.

Storage Building – Mr. Antonaccio is anxious to speak further with Mr. Westerman about placing a storage building in Reis Park beyond the Pony League Field that can be used to store the things that are currently collecting on the Homestead property.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning Board
Somers Historical Society