

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BARNHART
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Jeanette Gerfin, Laretta Jones, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson, and Rosey VanWart.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Antonucci and seconded by Mrs. VanWart to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

APPLICATIONS

Greenbriar-Somers Corp. – The Committee reviewed and discussed an updated Wetland Activity Permit, Steep Slope Permit, Tree and SMESC Application for Greenbriar-Somers Corp. There continues to be concern that since no changes have been made to the maintenance agreement plan, the existing storm water discharge system will once again silt up, as well as the question what will be done to ensure that there is a maintenance agreement plan. If the maintenance of the infiltration system will be the responsibility of the homeowner, the Committee has reservations as it seems beyond the scope of the normal expertise of a homeowner.

Specifically, with respect to this evening's submission, any additional plantings, as well as re-plantings should be native and appropriate to the existing habitat. Also, in considering a plan to re-vegetate, it is important that it doesn't discourage future maintenance. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

The recent storms caused quite a bit of damage to the trails. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor have been working on opening the trails. They will also

coordinate their calendars to schedule some work days. In addition, the spring weather has led to rapid growth of the invasives, which have to be removed.

Hans Elsevier has been graciously mowing the grass and will brush hog the meadow.

A new tree was planted in the Memory Forest in honor of Christine Beshar. Mrs. VanWart has ordered a rock engraved with her name that will be placed in front of the tree.

On Friday, June 29th, Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor will meet with Efreem Citarella to discuss moving forward on the Reynolds House. The land around the house is in the process of being graded and the septic will be done over the summer.

Mrs. VanWart gave the following updates on Eagle Scout Projects:
Jack Hannan completed his project consisting of gardening the sides and front of the poultry barn. Christian Faller is done with his project that consisted of clearing the vegetation and re-planting between the driveway and the stream. Liam MacDonald is working on his project, planting a nursery opposite the lower composting toilet. Matt Reimann is in the process of clearing out from under the pine trees by the poultry barn and will replant the area with ferns, mulch and rocks. Peter Schmidt is making a new kiosk that will be placed by the patio, as well as constructing two smaller kiosks for the connector trails. He will also build two benches for the patio area.

In an effort to keep up with trails maintenance, Mrs. VanWart suggested that the Land Trust sponsor an annual trail clean-up day. Scouts and high school students should be invited. An adopt-a-trail program can also be created. Mr. Barnhart will reach out to the NY/NJ Trail Conference with trail maintenance training assistance.

A Mother's Day Bird Walk was led by John Hannan. It took about 2 hours, went very well and 27 attended.

NYS Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant Update – Mrs. Antonucci, Mr. MacGregor and Mrs. Simpson have to complete a progress report. Ms. Knothe is working on a map of the invasives. Clearing will begin in the fall.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – As per the Town Supervisor on January 16th, Town Attorney Roland Baroni and Town Planner Syrette Dym are working on drafting the easement, as well as putting maps together for submission to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification. Mrs. Schirmer will request an update from Mrs. Dym.

OLD BUSINESS

Hudsonia Ltd. Update – Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia Ltd. continues to work on completing the biodiversity maps.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 19th at 4:30 p.m. in the Town House Map Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Open Space Committee

cc: Open Space Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk
Town Assessor
Planning Board
Parks and Recreation Board
Energy Environment Committee