

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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**Town of Somers**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
ANNEX  
337 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589

THOMAS J. TOOMA, JR.  
CHIEF



**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 17, 2020**

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following were in attendance: Somers Volunteer Fire Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Greg Lucia, Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jon Mackey, Deputy Chief Rob Russell, Bureau Chief Tom Tooma and Deputy Chief Al Vigliotti.

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Vigliotti to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting as submitted. Deputy Chief Russell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**SUBMISSIONS**

There were no submissions this evening.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**247 Route 100** – A Notice of Violation was issued on May 6<sup>th</sup> as the property was in violation of the Code of the Town of Somers as follows: for the lack of pavers between the dry hydrant and the driveway as per the original site plan requirements; the addition of a Conex box limiting access to the dry hydrant in contrast with the original site plan; the placement of a trailer in front of the loading docks in contrast with the original site plan; and the combustible materials, rubbish, as well as pallets strewn around the property. To date there has been no response. As soon as the courts open up, a Court Appearance Ticket will be issued.

**Hydrants in Heritage Hills** – Although the flushing of the hydrants is an ongoing work in progress, there are some concerns about the maintenance of the hydrants,

particularly with the caps seizing up. Mr. Tooma will have Assistant Building Inspector Rich Servello follow up.

**Driveway Gates** – The Town is in receipt of the legislation sent down from the State regarding driveway gate requirements that were approved by the Town Board, but it still has not be added to the e-code. Mrs. Schirmer will touch base with the Town Clerk about this.

**Heritage 202 Center** – Mrs. Schirmer reached out to the owners of the Heritage 202 Center, Urstadt Biddle with regard to cars constantly parking in the front of the stores and the Code requirement of that area being marked as “no parking, no standing, fire zone”. She will follow up. The Bureau would like to review the signs before they are purchased and installed.

Urstadt Biddle ordered signs that say “No Parking Fire Zone”, which are not correct. They should read “No Parking or Standing Fire Lane”. Currently two exist by Fratelli’s and Bobo’s Café which are difficult to see because they are back too far. The Bureau would also to approval the placement plan for the new signs.

**Open Burns Regulations** – Mr. Mackey provided an updated document that was a compilation of the codes on open burns from the International Fire Code and NYSDEC to be used as a guideline for their members when responding to related calls and the community at large for informational purposes. Each code was segmented out so that if a violation must be issued, it is clear which agency’s code is being cited. The Bureau was pleased with the document and thanked Mr. Mackey for his efforts. It will be placed on the Fire Department’s website, Facebook page and shared with their members. Mr. Mackey will also request that it be placed on the Town’s website. A question came up about enforcement. The Building Department will enforce the International Fire Code and the NYSDEC officer assigned to Somers will enforce their codes.

**7 Carpenter Place** – There was a chimney fire at 7 Carpenter Place. A follow up letter was sent requesting that their chimney be inspected and cleaned by May 31<sup>st</sup> and proof of such sent to the Building Inspector. A copy of the invoice was received, but additional information is needed.

**38 Driftwood Drive** – A dryer fire occurred at 38 Driftwood Drive. A follow up letter was sent requesting that the owner phone the Building Inspector to discuss what happened to be sure for example that the fire didn’t happen as a result of the dryer vent not being installed property. Mr. Tooma has not heard from the owner. Another letter will be sent.

**Heritage Hills Paper Roads** – Chief Mackey requested an update on the paper roads in Heritage Hills. Violations will be issued to the Condo Associations, but this is on hold until further notice as a result of the corona virus.

### **SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF’S REPORT**

Fire Chief Mackey reported on the following:

The Fire Department responded to a garage fire at 4 Walker Lane as a result of torch use. Mr. Tooma has spoken with the owner about a plan to repair or rebuild.

In early June, the Fire Department responded to a call for an odor of gas at 7 Seward Lane. The Assistant Building Inspector met with a representative of the owner. They are working on securing a permit to repair the gas line and a permit for some construction work that is going on.

There is an issue with the hydrants in Shenorock because the flags adhered to them are preventing the hydrants from being open. Water Department Superintendent Adam Smith is working with Chief Mackey in correcting the situation.

As a result of COVID-19, the Fire Department has been experiencing an issue with owners not allowing them to enter their homes when responding to a call. Although legally they cannot be denied access, the Board of Fire Commissioners is leaving that decision up to the officer in charge at the scene. If access is denied when the officer feels it is necessary, a certified letter will be sent to the owner indicating the date and time that entry was denied.

A question came up about the paper roads in Avalon. Assistant Chief Lucia will email pictures of the road signs and send them to Mrs. Schirmer. She will research further.

#### **BUREAU CHIEF'S REPORT**

Bureau Chief Tooma will provide Chief Mackey with an updated contact list for 60 Control.

#### **DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT**

Deputy Chiefs Russell and Vigliotti did not have anything to report.

#### **CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

There was no Chief Fire Inspector's Report this evening.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Artis Senior Living Fire Alarm System** – Fire Chief Mackey received an email from the Artis Senior Living folks about approving their Fire Alarm System. Although he reviewed it and nothing glaring stood out, this is really not his responsibility. Mr. Tooma will have his Assistant Building Inspector Rich Servello take a look at it.

**Outdoor Dining** – As part of Phase 2 of the State's Re-Opening Plan, restaurants are allowed to offer outdoor dining. The Supervisor's office is sending out packets of required paperwork to be returned to Mrs. Schirmer. Once the completed paperwork is received, an inspection by the Building Department has to take place and then a temporary permit will be issued. One of the requirements is a sketch plan, all of which Mrs. Schirmer will email to Chief Mackey and Mr. Tooma. Chief Mackey has been

asked to pay special attention to any issues he thinks might occur if EMS or fire personnel have to respond to a call and to let Mr. Tooma know. One concern that both Chief Mackey and Mr. Russell have is at the Barnwood Grill as they have a driveway blocked and propane heaters have been placed on top of astro turf. Mr. Tooma will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention  
Town Board  
Town Clerk  
Planning Board  
Principal Engineering Technician  
Somers Fire District