

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 16, 2021**

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following were in attendance: Somers Volunteer Fire Department 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 Russell to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting as submitted. Deputy Chief Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**SUBMISSIONS**

**Panny Two Lot Subdivision (19 Olive Drive)** – A review and discussion regarding the Panny Two Lot Subdivision took place at the April 2021 monthly meeting. As per State code requirements, the Bureau would like the road widened to the required 20' and terminating in a cul-de-sac of 96' in diameter. If the roadway was left as is, an emergency vehicle could not get down the road without another vehicle having the ability to pass by it and the emergency vehicle would have to back out of the road.

Applicable sections of the 2020 Fire Code of New York State were shared with the owners John Barile and Lou Panny. At their request, they joined the meeting this evening with their architect John Karell, Jr. P.E. A review and discussion continued. Their plan is to add 40' from the driveway of the existing road with a hammerhead extension and feel it is sufficient to accommodate an emergency vehicle. It was explained that the Town is obligated to follow the Code, however the owners and

architect felt that was an unreasonable request resulting in a hardship. Mr. Tooma will provide them with some contact information in Albany so they could get further clarification of the Code.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Driveway Gates** – The Town Clerk continues to work with the State about the driveway gate requirements legislation that was approved by the Town Board, but has still not been added to the e-code.

**Named Roads in Heritage Hills** – There are named roads in Heritage Hills that residents are using as their address when calling 911 which is leading to much confusion as those roads are not in the 911 cad system and were never approved by the Town. The Fire Department would like the signs removed. Mrs. Schirmer has reached out to Supervisor Morrissey concerning this issue.

**Crossroads at Baldwin Place** – The Bureau would like one 4” by 4” number placed on the window of each of the suites on the upper floor of the commercial building. Mr. Tooma will speak to the representative of the owner of Crossroads at Baldwin Place about this.

**Multi-Occupancy Signage Memo** – A memo was sent to the Town Board with regard to adopting a policy that moving forward the back doors of retail spaces and windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor must be identified in case of the need for emergency access. A public hearing was held and the Town Board thought it was a good idea and will be adding this requirement to the Code. When the resolution is received, Mrs. Schirmer will send a letter to existing commercial building owners that have more than one story, encouraging them to do the same.

**911 Numbering at Heritage Hills Maintenance Yard** – The Highway Department ordered signs and placed #83 and #85, with a directional arrow at the side of Warren Street that is visible from both directions of travel, indicating to turn onto “Fred’s Way” and Heritage Hills will be numerically identifying the drives to each location on “Fred’s Way” proper.

**No Parking Signs** – A letter has been sent to one of the shopping center owners making them aware that their no parking signs say “No Parking, Fire Zone” and per the Code they must read “No Parking, No Standing, Fire Lane/ Zone”.

**Dumpster Fire** – There was a dumpster fire at a commercial property and a letter was sent to the owner inquiring what transpired. The response didn’t answer the question.

**Parking in Fire Lanes** – Last month it was reported that there was a medical call in the Heritage 202 Center and the cars parked in the fire lane prevented the ambulance from getting as close as they could to the person in distress. There are cars parked there on a very regular basis. In addition, cars are parking up and down Old Tomahawk Street

and in the fire zone across from the Granite Springs Firehouse to partake in outdoor dining. An email was sent to the Acting Police Chief and he agreed to increase patrolling in these areas. Mr. Tooma will speak to the restaurant owners.

**Warning/Appearance Tickets for the Appointed Bureau Members** – Some time ago research was done about purchasing tickets for the Bureau since as per Chapter 26 of the Code of the Town of Somers, the appointed Bureau members may issue warning and appearance tickets. It was further determined that the appointed Bureau members can issue appearance tickets as per Chapter 158-14 of the Code of the Town of Somers.

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

The following was reported by Chief Mackey:

The following calls were responded to by the Somers Volunteer Fire Department: an oil burner puff back, two electrical fires, a malfunctioning AC, and an oven fire.

Mr. Mackey will be meeting with the folks at Artis Senior Living tomorrow to get knox box keys, discuss emergency procedures and access, etc.

A question came up about issuing a knox box key to the Building Department personnel to be used in conjunction with fire inspections and the Fire District was not comfortable with the idea.

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

Bureau Chief Tooma was at Artis Senior Living this week to do a pre-certificate of occupancy walk through. The fire and sprinkler alarms have been tested. They will be ready to apply for a certificate of occupancy in a month or so, but then will need a final sign off from the health department before they can open.

Electrical work done behind the cross at Yorktown Assembly of God resulted in a fire. Since then, all has been corrected and NYSEG turned the electric back on. The electrician's repair work was inspected and a copy of that inspection will be sent to the Building Department.

Mr. Tooma requested that 60 control be re-updated with emergency contact information for him.

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

Deputy Chief Vigliotti and Deputy Chief Russell had nothing to report this evening.

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

Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso was not present at the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Suez Water Technologies – New Hydrants in Heritage Hills** – Mr. Mackey reported that a representative of Suez Water Technologies attended a recent officer's meeting and brought a dummy of the new hydrants they are installing. They feel that they give better flow. Wrenches that will work the old and new hydrants will be provided. Although he feels that hydrants that are all standard are ideal, adding these new ones is not the worst thing. Mr. Russell wondered if the Code states that a universal elevator key has to be used, can't the same be done for hydrants.

**Somers Crossing** – A map of the new condo development under construction Somers Crossing was shared. Assistant Building Inspector Rich Servello is of the opinion that a directional sign needs to be installed at the fork just as you enter the development especially for emergency vehicles. All concurred. Mr. Tooma will mark up the map and it will be sent with a memo to the owner of the property.

**Driveway at 44 Greenlawn Road** – The owner of 44 Greenlawn Road called the Fire District to report that his driveway is quite steep and he was concerned that an emergency vehicle may not be able to get down his driveway. Mr. Mackey said that the house is not even 150' from the road and within reach of a hose line.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

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