

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
September 23, 2021

Chairman Barnhart called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson, and Rosey Van Wart.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor and seconded by Mrs. Van Wart to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications submitted this month.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve

All the trails are open and in good shape except for the red trail which has proven to be a bit more challenging.

There has been significant growth of mile-a-minute particularly on the green trail.

A black bear was seen near the AT&T right of way.

The beaver are presenting problems on the blue and yellow trails as they are building dams that flood the area up to the bog bridging. That part of the trail may have to be re-routed.

The garden is being prepared for winter.

Hunting will begin on October 1st. Orientation will take place next week and about 100 hunters are registered.

There have been graffiti issues on the composting toilets. SLT will consider whether a camera should be installed. The situation will be monitored.

The old telephone pole in the meadow broke and took down some wires. It has been removed. SLT will recommend to the Town removing the remaining poles and wires.

The Town Highway Department has been mowing along the roadway and although appreciated, it has cut back a bit too far. As a result, some apple and dogwood trees were mowed down. The Town will be appraised of SLT concerns.

Substantial path cuts have been made to access the area where the condos are located. Hopefully an estimate of cost to remove them will be received soon.

There was a trash dumping incident at the kiosk at Hilltop Road. Some hunters removed the debris. Hopefully this is an isolated incident as there have been no issues in a few years. This area will be monitored.

Yesterday, Mr. Barnhart and Mr. MacGregor met with Building Inspector Tom Tooma and Maintenance Laborer Chuck Dammeyer at the Reynolds House. Some suggested changes were made. A list of what is left to be done was created as well as one of what is needed to be purchased.

Mrs. VanWart met with a Girl Scout who wanted to do her Silver Award at Angle Fly. She replanted three dogwood trees between the entrance to the Preserve and the Reynolds House. Those trees were raised from seedlings on the property as an Eagle Scout Project. The last part of the project is to add plantings around the base of the trees, some of which were transplants from the garden.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification

It was reported to Mrs. Schirmer on March 19th that Andy Burgher of NYSDEC hopes that he can transmit the modification package to the Office of the Attorney General for their final review the week of March 26th and in the conversations that he has been having over the past four months with their office, he anticipates a quick turn around on the approval. An update was requested on June 28th with no response.

Tree Board – Mr. Barnhart attended a Zoom meeting on the 14th of September regarding the tree grant the Town received. Save a Tree has been hired to do the tree inventory on the public roadways and parks in Somers after which they will submit a report. They asked that the Somers Land Trust publicize this grant and designation on their website, sponsor a yearly Arbor Day event and solicit for pictures of trees still in full leaf bloom around Town.

OLD BUSINESS

OSC Membership in the NYS Urban Forestry Council Update – The Committee would like to become a member of the NYS Urban Forestry Council.

Attempts have been made to speak to someone about billing the Town for the membership with no response. Mrs. Schirmer will now just apply on line.

Proposed Renovation Project for Bailey Park Update – There has been no update on the Parks and Recreation Board moving forward with the proposed renovation project for Bailey Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Training Classes/Workshops – All were reminded that they can be reimbursed if there are any training classes or workshops they are interested in participating in.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 21st 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Open Space Committee

cc: Open Space Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk
Town Assessor
Planning Board