

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
November 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Michael Barnhart, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson, and Rosey Van Wart.

Jan Antonucci and Laretta Jones were absent.

Jeanette Gerfin has resigned from the Committee.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor and seconded by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

APPLICATIONS

North County Homes – Cardinal Way

An updated preliminary subdivision for North County Homes – Cardinal Way was reviewed and discussed. In July, a memo was sent to Planning and Engineering addressing the Committee's concerns. One of the lots contains an existing single-family house and the other is vacant. It is understood that the existing house will be removed and two new houses constructed. The Committee recommends the use of rain gardens and other low impact practices to mitigate storm water generated by the additional impervious surface. Additionally, the Committee noted that the sketch plan indicates the soil throughout the site is Paxton fine sandy loam. It is unclear as to who made this determination and on what it was based. No soil scientist is listed, and it is unclear whether it's based on a survey of the site. If determined by consulting County soil maps, the Committee notes that such surveys are inaccurate at the scale of a few acres, and it is not uncommon to find poorly drained Ridgebury soils co-occurring. Thus, the possibility of wetlands on the site cannot be ruled out, and if they do, need to be taken into account in terms of the overall site plan. Another memo reiterating the same will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

The Reynolds House has been insulated.

Many of the Eagle Scout Projects have been completed with two pending.

Mrs. VanWart has sent in the recommendation for Christian Faller's project.

Mr. Barnhart has completed a list of what is left to be done in the Reynolds House. He will go over it with Efrem Citarella.

Mr. Barnhart cut up some downed trees.

Work days to complete trail maintenance will be set up in January.

The deer hunting program is going well.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – As per the Town Attorney on September 21st, the Town is waiting for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to act on the Conservation Easement Modification.

OLD BUSINESS

Hudsonia Ltd. Update – Mr. Barnhart emailed Hudsonia Ltd.'s Gretchen Stevens requesting an update on the project of completing the biodiversity maps. He is waiting on a response.

Invasive Plant Local Law Referral Update – The Town Board passed a resolution about enacting a local law concerning invasive plants, in particular bamboo. It was referred to the Open Space Committee for review and comment and a response letter was sent. A Public Hearing will take place on December 13th.

Corp of Engineers Proposals for Storm Surge Barriers in NY Harbor Update – At their November 8, 2018 Meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution to authorize the adoption of a Somers model related to concerns over the US Army Corp of Engineers proposal for dealing with storm surge in New York Harbor.

Former IBM Site Update – The Somers Open Space Committee has been invited to attend a meeting tomorrow evening regarding plans to create a secondary school, primarily for boarders at the former IBM site. Maps of the area were reviewed and a discussion ensued as to what the Committee's presentation at the meeting will include.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 17th at 5:30 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