

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
October 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Michael Barnhart, Laretta Jones, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson, and Rosey Van Wart.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor and seconded by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

APPLICATIONS

Banfi/Ward – The Committee reviewed and discussed the lot realignment for Banfi/Ward and had no objections. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

Cobbling Rock Estates – A review and discussion took place regarding an updated site plan for the Cobbling Rock Estates. The comments were the same as expressed after a review in July. The Committee will ask that a conservation subdivision plan be done and that clustering be considered. They would like cape cod curbing to be used and will request that an archaeological as well as a biodiversity assessment analysis be done. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

JFK Catholic High School – The Committee reviewed and discussed the lighting and concession stand plan for JFK Catholic High School. The comments were the same as expressed after a review in July 2017. The placement of the lights is being questioned as the ideal is to reduce the amount of light spillage. They are lighting a considerable portion of sensitive watershed area which will have a negative impact on fauna. In addition, the location, height and size of the stanchions will significantly impact the reservoir in terms of light pollution. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

Somers Manor Nursing Home (The Paramount at Somers) – A review and discussion took place regarding an updated site plan for Somers Manor Nursing Home (The Paramount at Somers). The Committee is proposing that

consideration be given for pollinator friendly plantings instead of euonymus. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Chair's Report

Angle Fly Preserve Updates:

All of the trails are open and ready for winter.

The gardens have been prepared for the winter.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – This item was placed on the agenda of the October Town Board meeting. Town Attorney Roland Baroni reported that the Conservation Easement Modification will in fact happen and the Westchester County Planning Department has reviewed as well as approved the deed, but are waiting for New York State DEC approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Hudsonia Ltd. Update – Hudsonia's Gretchen Stevens continues to work on updating the biodiversity maps and Mr. Barnhart has begun answering the list of questions she has.

L158 Muscoot Rail Bridge – As reported in the August 2019 meeting minutes of the Energy Environment Committee, Councilman Richard Clinchy and Energy Environment Committee member Rick Warren were in receipt of an email from Dan Welsh regarding the L158 Muscoot Rail Bridge, half of which is in Somers. Recently some of the Lewisboro folks opened a short bit of the rail trail on their side and would like to ultimately connect it with Somers. Barton and Loguidice is offering to put together a grant application to assess the refurbishing costs. Mr. Welsh is hoping that Somers would be willing to share the fee of \$2,000 to \$4,000 to do so. The Open Space Committee hopes that the Town of Somers will engage in this proposal. Mr. Barnhart reached out to Councilman Clinchy about this as he thinks it would be a good idea if a meeting takes place at the Rail Bridge with the Lewisboro group. Councilman Clinchy will keep Mr. Barnhart posted.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st 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