

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
(914) 277-5582

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

JOHN DE MASE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2025

The meeting was opened at 4:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Resident Architect Ken Bond, Historic Properties Board Chairman and Architectural Review Board Member John DeMase, Town Supervisor Rob Scorrano, Town Historian Doris Smith, and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman.

Somers Historical Society President Jonathon Benjamin was absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Westerman and seconded by Mr. Bond to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025 meeting. All were in favor.

Old Business

Homestead

The Highway Department cleared the areas on either side of the Homestead driveway allowing for a much better view. As always, their assistance is appreciated.

New outbuilding signage panels were made by Signs Ink and hung on each building by Marty Stole.

Funds were issued by the Town to purchase just under \$20,000 of cedar shingles to begin the process of replacing all the outbuilding roofs that have not

yet been done. At some point this year, another order will be placed to purchase additional cedar shingles needed to complete this project.

Kowidge Architecture & Design was awarded the bid to complete the report needed to renovate the Horse Barn at a total of \$35,000. Once complete, the work will be done by in-house carpenter Martin Gnip. A SAM Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to complete this project. Once the work begins it will be highlighted via Assemblyman Matt Slater's office as he was instrumental in securing this Grant for the Town.

Somers Historical Society members Grace and Jeff Zimmerman will be taking care of the gardens this center. Their offer to do so is very much appreciated.

Somers Historical Society member Meg Timone will be taking care of cleaning the Homestead. Her offer to do so is In addition her watercolor group will be using the Homestead and grounds throughout the year.

Earlier today, it was noticed that some of the foundation of the chicken coop came loose. Martin Gnip will be able to repair it.

Upcoming projects to be completed at the Homestead include outdoor bench repairs, the roof of the Grainery/Hay Barn and repairs, painting and a new roof on the Outhouse.

Signs

New signs were made by Signs Ink for the Chapel, Church and Homestead. Their locations have been determined and the Highway Department installed them. Many thanks to the Highway Department staff for their assistance with this.

Chapel

The roof is in the process of being replaced by Martin Gnip with cedar shingles on hand. New windows were purchased by the Town with funds they received after COVID and they will be installed by Mr. Gnip. When these two projects are complete, Mr. Gnip will build a couple of steps from the ground up to the porch by the entrance door. Some indoor plaster work will have to be done as well at some point. The entrance to the Chapel was cleared and opened up by the Parks staff. Their assistance is most appreciated.

The Old-Old Bet Statue

Supervisor Scorrano has been working with resident Vito Andriano who offered to repair the Old-Old Bet that once sat in front of the Town House. He will also build a pedestal and case so it can be displayed on the first floor of the Town House or in the Meeting

Room. This project should be complete and on display in time for the 200th Anniversary of the Town House Celebration on May 31st.

New Business

Mt. Zion New Electric Service

There were numerous problems over the winter with the alarm system in the Mt. Zion Church regularly tripping. Doyle Security determined it was an electrical issue. North County Electric determined the electrical service going to the Church and the electrical panel in the Church installed in the early 70's had to be replaced. NYSEG had to replace the pole at the street as well. The work has been completed, and NYSEG has to connect the new service to their pole which should be happening any day now. The total spent was \$12,239 and there is only \$1,000 in that budget.

Knox Boxes Chapel, Church and Homestead

The Somers Volunteer Fire Department is requesting that all commercial properties have Knox Boxes. They cost \$600 each and arrangements will have to be made to have them installed in the Chapel, Church and Homestead.

Horn Strobes Church and Homestead

The Town Board approved a local law requiring all commercial buildings to have horn strobes installed as part of their alarm systems. Unfortunately, the Church and Homestead do not have them so they will have to be installed by Doyle Security. This item was not budgeted for. The cost will be \$540 for the Church and \$647 for the Homestead.

Exterior Painting of Town House

The Town Board approved soliciting bids to paint the exterior of the Town House. Mr. Gnip met with prospective bidders on site on May 14th. About a dozen contractors attended. The bids are due on May 29th.

Elephant Hotel Grant Award

The Town was awarded an EPF Matching Grant in the amount of \$281,500 for a restoration project primarily in the basement of the Elephant Hotel. The ending date for the grant is December 22, 2029. A meeting was held earlier in the month with Town employees that will be involved in the project to outline the process. Meetings will continue monthly.

Carolyn Wright-Reis' Nash

Mr. DeMase would like to have an assessment done on Carolyn Wright-Reis' 1941 Nash Ambassador automobile to see what needs to be done to restore it. He would

also like to move it from the Highway Department to the Carriage Barn at the Homestead.

Grants

The Town has hired a new grant writer. Mr. DeMase will have an opportunity to meet with them via Zoom in the near future to discuss needed funds that a grant may be able to be secured for.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, August 28th at 4:30 p.m. in the Somers Town House Map Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Somers Historical Society