

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

JOHN DE MASE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2025

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

The following members were present: Somers Historical Society President Jonathon Benjamin, Resident Architect Ken Bond, Town Supervisor Rob Scorrano, Town Historian Doris Smith, and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman.

Historic Properties Board Chairman and Architectural Review Board Member John DeMase was absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Westerman and seconded by Mr. Benjamin to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025 meeting. All were in favor.

Old Business

Homestead

Outbuildings Cedar Shakes – Since all the allocated budget funds for this year will not be used, additional cedar shakes will be purchased so that the roofs of all the outbuildings that haven't yet been replaced, can be.

Horse Barn Renovation – The engineer report and preliminary construction plans have been received. Martin Gnip will meet with the architect over the next couple of weeks to review the construction plans. Once finalized, full size plans will be received and Mr. Gnip can begin the work. Supervisor Scorrano would like to have a press conference before the work begins. Mrs. Schirmer will coordinate.

The commitment at this point is to complete the project by November 1st without requesting another extension.

Future Projects Work Schedule – The benches that were unassembled have to be rebuilt and work – repairs, painting, new roofs, etc. will continue on the outbuildings on a priority basis

Tomahawk Chapel

The replacement of the roof is almost complete. The extreme heat slowed down this process. Once the Horse Barn project is complete, the windows will be replaced, repairs to the siding and plaster done as well as a small set of steps from the ground to the porch.

Mt. Zion Church

The new electric service, including a new panel is complete and the alarm system functional again. North County Electric did all the electric work and NYSEG installed a new pole. Thanks to the Highway Department for digging the trench.

Knox Boxes

At the request of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department, Knox Boxes have been installed in the Chapel and Church by Marty Stole. A decision still has to be made as to where the one on the Homestead should be installed, which will happen soon.

Horn Strobes

In order to comply with the newly adopted local law, Doyle Security installed horn strobes in the Church and the Homestead.

Town House

The exterior of the Town House will be painted starting next week.

Carolyn Wright-Reis' 1941 Nash Ambassador Automobile

Hopefully a grant will become available to restore Carolyn Wright-Reis' 1941 Nash Ambassador and move it back to the Homestead from the Highway Department.

Grant Opportunities

A meeting was held with the new grant writers hired by the Town and they have a full comprehensive idea as to what funding is needed for. Hopefully there will be grants that can be applied for.

New Business

Invasives Around Exterior of Homestead Outbuildings

Last year the Highway Department was gracious enough to clear the invasives growing around the exterior of some of the Homestead outbuildings. The spring house was unable to be located as a result. Maintaining this situation is not something the Highway Department can really do, so Mr. Gnip purchased a commercial weed whacker that he will use to keep up with any growth.

Model T Use Policy and Driver Training

All were advised that the Supervisor's office is overseeing the use of the Model T and driver training. There are some Town affiliated residents that are being trained or expressed the desire to do so.

2026 Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for 2026 was reviewed and discussed. The total of \$40,000 is the same as last year since some of the work that was to be done this year never happened. It is the intention to use Mr. Gnip for the work however he assists with all the Town buildings and there have been emergencies that took precedence. A motion was made by Mr. Westerman to approve the 2026 budget as proposed. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Solar Lights in Town House Parking Lot

The Energy and Environment Committee would like to dedicate a portion of reward money received to install two solar lights, in each corner of the Town House parking lot. They would complement those existing and Mr. Gnip will install the 18' poles and the Town's contracted electrician, North County Electric will install the fixtures. All thought it was a great idea.

Concert at Mt. Zion Church

Each year, Scott Urgola offers a free concert on the lawn of the Mt. Zion Church or inside in case of inclement weather. It is the hope of the Board that once the

other buildings are improved, they will be used for events/programs for the community.

Scout Projects

Mrs. Smith met with a scout earlier today regarding his desire to complete his Eagle Scout Project at one of the Historic Properties. All were encouraged to email Mrs. Schirmer with any ideas that have that would be viable options.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, November 20th 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