

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone  
(914) 277-5582

Town of Somers  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

JOHN DE MASE  
CHAIRMAN



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 20, 2025**

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

The following members were present: Somers Historical Society President Jonathon Benjamin, 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. Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Westerman to approve the minutes of the August 28, 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 construction plans have been received. Martin Gnip met with the architect and Building Inspector to review the construction plans. Work on the Horse Barn Renovation began on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gutters – The gutters on the Homestead were cleaned by the Highway Department under the supervision of Marty Stole.

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 roof on the Tomahawk Chapel has been replacement. Mr. Gnip did an amazing job. 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.

#### Town House

The exterior painting and the ghost lettering of the Town House is complete and it looks great.

#### 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.

#### 2026 Proposed Budget

The proposed \$40,000 2026 budget was accepted as submitted and is included in the preliminary budget.

### **New Business**

#### Member Resignation

With regret, Mrs. Schirmer announced that Resident Architect member of the Board Ken Bond has resigned. Since current member John DeMase is an architect, Mr. Bond's position will not need to be filled.

#### Model T Ford Roadster – Display Sign, New Rag Top

Mrs. Schirmer has been working with Somers Historical Society member and driver of the Model T Ford Roadster Arnie Guyot. A display sign that will stand next to the car has been made and a new rag top was ordered. Mr. Guyot continues to bring the Model T to local car shows.

## Pond at Homestead

At the suggestion of Mr. Guyot, it would be nice to recreate the pond that was on the Homestead property but has dried out. All agreed that would be a tough endeavor and there are many other projects that need to be completed at the Homestead.

## Horse Barn Photo Op

Supervisor Scorrano made arrangements with Assemblyman Matt Slater to have a photo op at the Horse Barn on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. as Assemblyman Slater provided the \$50,000 grant to renovate the Horse Barn.

## Refrigerator for Homestead

The Somers Historical Society is requesting that the Town purchase a new refrigerator to replace the existing one which was a used donation. Mr. Benjamin will assess the existing refrigerator and if it does in fact need to be replaced, Supervisor Scorrano has a contact he will ask.

## Friends of the Somers Historic Properties (Chapel, Church, Homestead)

Supervisor Scorrano and Mrs. Schirmer met with Mr. Benjamin to discuss the possibility of creating a Friends of the Somers Historic Properties for the Chapel, Church and Homestead as Muscoot Farm has a very successful Friends group. It is certainly a viable option and Mrs. Schirmer is willing to work on creating a 501 (c) (3) shortly to see this project to fruition. Supervisor Scorrano wants to discuss this with the Town Attorney before this work begins.

## 2026 Meeting Dates

The Historic Properties Board will meet on the following Thursdays in 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Somers Town House Map Room. It would be appreciated if everyone would mark their calendars and make every attempt to be in attendance, February 26, May 28, August 27 and November 19.

A motion was made by Mr. Westerman and seconded by Mrs. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 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