

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
April 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jan Antonucci, Bob MacGregor, Gail Simpson and Rosey VanWart.

Michael Barnhart was absent.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Antonucci and seconded by Mrs. Simpson to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2026 meeting.

APPLICATIONS

20 Putney Road

The Committee reviewed and discussed a proposal for an inground swimming pool at 20 Putney Road. Although the Committee is pleased that native plantings will be used, there is no indication as to what species make up the rows of plantings that extend along the property lines on either side of the house and pool area. It was also suggested that perhaps a raingarden might be a feasible alternative to the proposed storm water infrastructure. It appears that there is enough room for one. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant

A review and discussion took place regarding the Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant proposed PFAS building. On number 6 of the EAF, the question addresses whether the project is consistent with the character of the area and it is marked "yes", but should be marked "no". The building's facade and overall appearance is very industrial. Measures must be taken to soften the visual impact of the project, even beyond the revised elevation plans (not in the site plan document). It is assumed that they will have to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals to get variances for their non-conforming setbacks, however, changing the orientation of the building, might make them able to conform or at least come closer to doing so. There is no indication of a pad for the enormous chlorine tank that the

Committee thinks would be needed to support such a structure; and if there is a pad, how will storm water coming from the pad be addressed?
Any gratings associated with SWMPs must be minimized to avoid entrapping migrating amphibians.

While there are pruning instructions included with the planting plans, there are no maintenance plans discussed - Who's going to do this? On what schedule? A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

125 Mahopac Avenue

A review and discussion took place regarding a second submission to construct an inground pool at 125 Mahopac Avenue. The Committee has no further comments but is happy with Steve Robbin's of Woodard and Curran's suggestion and subsequent plan of handling the stormwater with a pervious patio. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Old Business

Trailside Estates Response Memo

At their February 5, 2026 meeting, the Committee reviewed a submission for Trailside Estates and sent a memo to the Planning Board with their comments. A response memo from Insite Engineering was received. While the Committee appreciates the apparent acceptance of the various suggestions made regarding grating sizes and curb profiles, they were rather dismayed by the response to the request for a proper tree inventory. The Committee is not on the Planning Board's site walk and cannot assess the impact of losing so much forest without the tree inventory. Evidently, the Planning Board agreed not to require one, which the Committee disagrees with. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Two New Local Laws for Consideration

Mrs. Simpson shared some information on local communities wanting to adopt local laws to prevent use of chemicals and pesticides, and Mrs. Schirmer shared information about banning gas powered leaf blowers. Additional information has been received and forwarded to everyone. A draft memo to the Town Board recommending adoption of these two new local laws will be sent to everyone and finalized at the May meeting.

New Business

NYSACC Issue Alert Email

An email was received from the President of NYSACC regarding a pending proposal included in the Governor's budget submission to make changes to SEQRA. All agreed to discuss this further at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Open Space Committee

cc: Open Space Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk
Town Assessor