

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
(914) 277-5582

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

JOHN DE MASE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2026

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

The following members were present: Somers Historical Society President Jonathon Benjamin, 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

John DeMase called into the meeting.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Westerman to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting. All were in favor.

Old Business

Homestead

New Kitchen Issues – While conducting a regular check at the Homestead, Maintenance Tech Marty Stole noticed that icicles had formed in the new kitchen and down into the basement at the Homestead. Due to the extreme weather conditions, he is not sure if the water heater under the sink is leaking, but the thermostat in the kitchen was not working. Mr. Stole will meet with both the Town contracted plumber and HVAC techs to see what might be going on.

Outbuildings Cedar Shakes – The balance of the allocated budget funds were used to purchase additional cedar shakes for the Homestead outbuilding roofs

and are being stored. There are now enough shakes on hand to replace all the outbuilding roofs.

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 10th, but quickly came to a stop as a result of some Town building emergencies and when Mr. Gnip was ready to begin work again the numerous snow storms became an issue. Work will resume as soon as the snow has melted for the season.

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.

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.

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 agreed that it needs replacement and will provide Mrs. Schirmer with measurements to see if another donation can be made. If not, a new refrigerator will be purchase.

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.

New Business

Eagle Scout Project

Mrs. Smith met with resident and scout Sam Dwyer who is interested in identifying Revolutionary War soldiers who are buried in the cemeteries in Somers. Once located he would like to place shields at the tombstones and see if by chance there are any family members of these soldiers that are local. Once he gets his project approved by the Eagle Scout Project Committee, he will be back in touch with Mrs. Smith.

Local Research Project

Mr. Benjamin shared a local research project he is involved with. There is a historic home on Route 116 just as one leaves Somers that used to be Haight Tavern and had connections to the Revolutionary War. The new owner is working with Mrs. Smith and Mr. Benjamin has been in contact with Haight family members. Additionally, he will be doing research on an old walking path in Granite Springs that was used by the Revolutionary Soldiers.

A motion was made by Mr. Westerman and seconded by Mrs. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, May 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