

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**  
**May 14, 2026**

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

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

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. MacGregor and seconded by Mrs. Antonucci to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting.

**APPLICATIONS**

**North Edge Realty**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the applicant's response letter to the Somers Open Space Committee as well as to the Town consulting engineer and other agencies. North Edge claims that it has already met the requirements associated with a tree inventory through its long-form EAF and related tree survey of a 'typical' one-acre plot on the property. The Committee respectfully disagrees with the applicant that such efforts substitute for a full tree inventory and the information it provides regarding the true natural resource impact of the current proposal. They also cannot make recommendations or assessments regarding environmental impact without such information at this stage. Therefore, once again the Committee reiterates the request for a full tree inventory.

In addition, the Committee would appreciate responses to the variety of concerns expressed in the aforementioned February memo.

A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Another submission from the Planning Board for 247 Route 100 was reviewed and discussed. There were no comments. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

### **Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant**

A review and discussion took place regarding the most recent submissions by Suburban Engineering on behalf of Veolia concerning the Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant. These include responses to the Somers Open Space Committee's memo of April 13, 2026. Having reviewed the submission and letter, the Committee has the following comments.

1. The Committee rejects the letter's stated reasons for refusing to look closely at reorienting the proposed building, that "all of the building locations and orientations would have similar visual impacts." Shifting the building to present its smaller profile (by 26') to the neighboring Rhinoceros Creek Reservation pavilion and parking area would considerably reduce its visual impact.
2. Since the entire building envelope lies within the associated wetland buffer, however the building is oriented, the Committee does not agree that reorientation of the building would necessarily impose significantly greater wetland impact.
3. The Committee would like to see details regarding the scope and nature of alternative sitings and orientations of the PFAS building rather than unsupported, general claims about impact as are communicated in Suburban Engineering's submitted response. Without details, the Committee cannot confirm the tradeoffs between visual and environmental impacts of various alternatives as represented by Suburban Engineering.
4. Proposed "aesthetic improvements" to the building were still missing from the submitted elevation plans. Without these, the Committee cannot determine the degree to which the building conforms to neighborhood character. The Committee does appreciate that the applicant admits that such is an issue.

A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

### **Old Business**

#### **Proposed Partial Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers**

A draft of a memo to the Town Board proposing a partial ban on gas powered leaf blowers was prepared, reviewed and discussed. All agreed to request a discussion with the Town Board regarding this proposal.

### **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 send a letter endorsing Riverkeeper's, and other environmental organizations, concerns to the proposed changes, as SEQRA is an important and beneficial tool for planning. This letter will also be sent to Senator Harckham and Assemblyman Slater.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Open Space Committee

cc: Open Space Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk  
Town Assessor