

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

Telephone
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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

JOHN DE MASE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2026

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

The following members were present: Somers Historical Society President Jonathon Benjamin, Town Supervisor Rob Scorrano and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman

John DeMase and Doris Smith were absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Scorrano to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026 meeting. All were in favor.

Old Business

Homestead

New Kitchen Issues Updates – In February it was reported that 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 was not sure if the water heater under the sink was leaking, but the thermostat in the kitchen was not working. Mr. Stole met with both the Town contracted plumber and HVAC techs to see what might be going on. The baseboard heater and thermostat in the kitchen were in fact no longer working and had to be replaced. It was also noted that the bathroom on the second floor of the Homestead was leaking. The toilet

was replaced and the leak continued. The plumber ended up “rebuilding” the toilet and the leak stopped.

New Refrigerator Update – The refrigerator in the new kitchen of the Homestead continuously gets moldy and needs to be replaced. Mr. Benjamin will stop by Appliance Sales Plus in Lincolnale to see if they would be willing to donate a refrigerator or at least sell the Town one at a discount.

Horse Barn Renovation Update – 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 was to resume as soon as the snow had melted for the season, but it turned out that some of the paperwork that the Town needed to submit to the State before the funds were released was not done. Mrs. Schirmer is working on getting everything straightened out and when done, work can continue on the barn.

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

New Locks for the Outbuildings – All agreed that it made sense to replace all the locks on the outbuildings so all operate with the same key. Mrs. Schirmer will speak to Mr. Stole about taking care of this.

Tomahawk Chapel

The roof on the Tomahawk Chapel has been replaced. Mr. Gnip did an amazing job. Once the project he is currently working on 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 will be taken care of as his schedule allows.

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 discussed this idea with the Town Attorney who said it is doable. Mr. Scorrano and Mr.

Benjamin will meet to talk about viable candidates to fill the Board positions. Once these folks commit, Mrs. Schirmer will complete the paperwork to create the non-profit. All agreed that the first project to be funded should be the restoration of the sleigh being stored in one of the outbuildings followed by the restoration of Carolyn Wright-Reis' 1941 Nash Ambassador automobile.

New Business

Somers Historical Society Annual Meeting

Mr. Benjamin announced that the Somers Historical Society will hold their annual meeting on the Homestead on June 7th. After the meeting the Homestead will be open for tours for the public. He hopes that his fellow Board members will be able to attend.

Independence Day Celebration

In anticipation of the upcoming Independence Day Celebration on July 1st at 5:00 p.m. in Reis Park, the Somers Historical Society communicated that ideally the Mt. Zion Church needs to be painted, but at the very least it would be help if the side of the Church facing the drive as one enters the Park could be gently washed. Since the event isn't starting until 5:00 p.m., it was noted that the focus on people entering the Park won't necessarily be on looking at the Church, however, if a large flag was hung on that side of the Church, it would most definitely catch the eye of folks entering the Park and since it is the 250th Birthday of America, it could remain up until Veteran's Day. All thought that was a great idea. Mrs. Schirmer will ask Mr. Gnip to get a measurement for her and she will reach out to the flag company that the Town uses. It was also noted that ground solar lights will need to be purchased so proper protocol is followed by lighting the flag. Painting of the Church will be placed on the agenda and can be done by Mr. Gnip when his schedule lightens up.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, August 27th 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