

**Town of Somers
Camp Ayapo Organizational Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, January 16, 2014
7:00 pm – Town Hall**

1. Call to Order

- i. Meeting called to order by First Selectman L.Pellegrini at approximately 7:04 pm

2. Members Present:

S.Squillace, L.Cherry, E.Giza, B.Capuano, K.Coelho, B.Pellissier, P.Carson, W.Nieliwocki,
D.Wilson and First Selectman L.Pellegrini No members absent

Audience Present: Approximately 4 citizens plus Town Engineer J.Bord and Town Clerk A.Logan

3. History/Overview of Project

- i. The YWCA approached the Town of Somers to purchase the property which contains approximately 182 acres
- ii. Initially, the Town was working with the Land Trust on applying for an Open Space Grant for the purchase of the property. The Land Trust stepped down and the Town continued on to apply for the Open Space Grant. The Town is solely purchasing the property.
- iii. The purchase price of the property was \$825,000. \$450,000 was secured from a DEEP grant, and the remaining monies to be taken from the Open Space Fund
- iv. A Town Meeting was held on July 18, 2013 and approved the signing of the contract for the purchase.
- v. The grant restricts the usage of the property as ~~passive recreational~~ The grant is intended to preserve open space in natural state.
- vi. The grant is broad enough to incorporate the salvaging of certain structures, i.e. bathrooms but it is suggested all structures be eliminated
- vii. Lots have been cut from the property and when sold, the monies will go back into the Open Space account for future funding of land purchases, improvements and maintenance of open space areas. P.Carson requested a confirmation of open space money usage
- viii. Upon transfer of the property, the Town will be required to ~~make safe~~ the property which would include the structures, the placement of signage and the securing of the property
- ix. Insurance coverage falls within the Town's coverage of Parks and Recreation activities and signage to be placed in strategic locations regarding swimming.
- x. J.Bord stated that the dam needs to be stabilized, and a large rip-rap area established for overflow so that it does not go over the roadway. All encroachments will be cleared by March 1st and all lots must be delineated.

4. Review of Charge From the Board of Selectmen

- a. Primary Focus-A plan of strategic goals and objectives for the recreational use of the property.
- b. Secondary Focus-Plans for security and the reduction of vandalism.
- c. Third Focus- A plan for maintenance and upkeep of the property.

Members discussed the following security issues:

- Open at sunrise and close at sunset the same as State Parks
- Designation of specific parking areas with closure abilities
- Signage
- Water restrictions/warnings
- Monitoring activity after ~~hours~~ to insure security

Members discussed the establishment of a facility which is available to all age groups for
-Passive Recreation

- Definition of passive recreation
- Inclusion of activities: hiking, walking, cross country skiing, boating (no docking), fishing. It was stated that debris is currently exists in the lake (including a vehicle) and the approximately depth of the lake is 15ø
- Exclude: motorized vehicles
- Area not to be a -Somers Onlyø facility
- Fee schedule is possible or financial sponsorship of structures

5. Review of Time Lines

Committee notified that a report is being requested by the Board of Selectmen of their recommendations by the end of June. The Committee would then cease to exist effective June 30th, 2014 having completed their assignment with their suggestions/recommendations.

6. Election of Officers

- i. Chairman ó Motion by P.Carson, seconded by L.Cherry to nominate B.Pellessier, no other nominations ó unanimously voted ó B.Pellessier Chairman
- ii. Vice Chairman ó Motion and second to nominate S.Squillace, no other nominations ó unanimously voted ó S.Squillace Vice Chairman
- iii. Secretary ó P.Carson volunteered to act as Secretary ó no other nominations ó unanimously voted ó P.Carson Secretary

7. Schedule of Future Meetings

Chairman Pellessier stated his desire to have open public meetings so that suggestions and ideas would be received directly from town individuals, as well as, commission members. Suggested schedule of meetings: January 30th, February 20th (notice for public invitation to attend and express comments/suggestions), March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29. P.Carson will see the availability of the Town Hall auditorium on Thursday evenings.

Comments made by Committee Members:

K.Coelho expressed his concern of opening the Camp to everyone would create issues and an influx of individuals from out of town/state using the swimming/boating area. This scenario could possibly be curtailed if fees were charged.

E.Giza stated that he knows of local organization that would be willing to -adoptø buildings which would include maintenance. Organizations such as: Sportsmens Club, Boy Scouts, Recreation, etc. He also noted that he had inquiries concerning usage of the property for hunting dog field trials. Blank shots would be fired simulating actual hunting and the dogs would retrieve decoys from the lake. K.Coelho stated he would be against this type of activity, particularly with the firing of blanks.

S.Squillace stated his primary concerns would be: buildings, water, trails, dam and roadway.

8. Adjournment

Motion by L.Cherry to adjourn the Camp Ayapo Ad Hoc Comm Mtg at approximately 8:30 pm, seconded by W.Nieliwocki ó Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Logan, Town Clerk
Temporary Secretary