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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Town of Somers Purchases Camp Aya-Po from
YWCA Hartford Region**
Land will be preserved for generations

Somers, CT- The Town of Somers finalized the purchase of Camp Aya-Po from YWCA Hartford Region in late May. In 2012, the Town of Somers was awarded an Open Space Grant from the State of Connecticut for \$450,000 which was to be used to preserve more than 173 acres of land at Camp Aya-Po. The land will be preserved for generations and will be open and available for residents and visitors to enjoy.

YWCA Hartford Region established Camp Aya-Po in 1926 after purchasing the land from the Town of Somers with a gift from Samuel P. Avery. For decades, campers spent their summers enjoying activities such as swimming in Lake Hurd, archery, hiking the trails and more.

“For many years Camp Aya-Po was a treasured destination for campers in the Hartford Region,” YWCA CEO Deborah Ullman said. “We have always had a wonderful working relationship with the Town of Somers and we are excited the land will be preserved and continue to bring enjoyment to all for decades to come.”

“Camp Aya-Po is the crowning jewel of open space in Connecticut,” First Selectman for the Town of Somers Lisa Pellegrini said. “We are looking forward to working with the land trust and various other organizations to preserve the property.”

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women’s membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywc Hartford.org and follow us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).