

**SOMERS ENERGY ADVISORY PANEL
335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589**

**MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2010**

Chairman, Herb Oringel called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Helen Brady, John Gilbert, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic and Mike Marx.

Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Town Councilman Richard Clinchy, Dana Boulanger (away), Flo Brodley (away) and Kerry Mac Neal (away) were absent.

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Oringel welcomed new member Frank Maricic.

Meeting Day and Time Change

For some, the time that the Energy Advisory Panel meets is an issue. All agreed starting in March, to meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Schirmer will see if the Recreation Center is available as a meeting place. Mr. Oringel checked with Mrs. Hopper a potential new member and she is available for the new schedule.

Grant

Somers is applying for a NYSERDA grant of between \$400,000-\$500,000 . Of that total, more than \$340,000 will be used for upgraded lighting and lighting control systems in the Somers School District. It is estimated that the yearly electric savings will be between \$80,000 and \$90,000. A request to hire an energy professional for 12 months is also included in the application. The professional will drive the development of a Green House gas emissions inventory for Somers and work on completing the projects included in the development of our Climate Action Plan. Additional monies from the maximum allowable grant request will be applied to the Bedford Energy Efficiency application and the Croton GHG and CAP application for smaller towns in the Consortium.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Oringel was invited to speak to a group of Russian City Mayors in New Paltz regarding the Consortium and its mission. He was invited to come to Moscow and discuss this collaborative effort to a wider audience of Russian Government leaders.

Climate Action Plan

At their February 2 meeting, the Bedford Town Board approved the Climate Action Plan, which includes 75 projects that have to be prioritized and dealt with individually. In many cases legislation and/or ordinances will have to be created.

This Plan will serve as the 6th Chapter of their Comprehensive Town Master Plan Update. In many ways it is a model for all to follow and was widely applauded by County officials.

2010 Planning

Mr. Gilbert had suggested to Mr. Oringel that the Panel select a family in Somers to use as a case study in terms of promoting energy efficiency for the community. Mr. Oringel distributed copies of a book written by David Gershon entitled **Low Carbon Diet** and asked all members to review it. Perhaps a family per neighborhood can be chosen and this book can be used as the guideline.

Both Mrs. Brady and Mr. Marx should have something to present to the Panel in March regarding Land and Water Use/Sustainability and Transportation respectively. Mr. Oringel suggested that Mrs. Brady check the Westchester County website to see what they have initiated.

Mr. Marx will be attending a Clean Air NY meeting. They would like very much to assist as needed. Mr. Maricic is attending a Home Energy conference and will bring information back for the Panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. Place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy Advisory Panel
Town Board
Town Clerk