

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

**MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Helen Brady, John Gilbert, Cristina Hopper, Jane Harsha, Kerry Mac Neal, Frank Maricic and Mike Marx.

Chairman Herb Oringel, Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Town Councilman Richard Clinchy, Dana Boulanger (away) and Flo Brodley (away) were absent.

Mr. Oringel provided comment via email, after reading the draft minutes and in response to them.

Welcome and Introduction

New Panel member Cristina Hopper was welcomed.

Minutes

Mr. Marx made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting Day, Time and Place Change

All agreed that moving forward, the Panel would meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

2010 Planning Updates

All members gave an overview of what they have accomplished to date with regard to the 2010 planning process. All were encouraged to email Mrs. Schirmer their Plans, so they could be downloaded onto a disk for future amendments. In addition, Mr. Oringel suggested that a calendar of events and activities should be created that represent trackable commitments that will lead to our team workproducts.

Mrs. Brady presented an assessment of Bedford's Climate Action Plan for Land and Water Use as it relates to Somers. Included in the presentation was the Action Plan for each use, followed by the Actions Expanded, which are the steps in which to accomplish the Plan. Mrs. Brady will make arrangements to meet with the Open Space Committee and the Town Planner for assistance with some of the Actions Expanded. The only commented change was that Westchester County codes should be used as the model for zoning, planning, and land/water use.

Mr. Marx presented an assessment of Bedford's Climate Action Plan for

Transportation as it relates to Somers. Two categories were presented, Town Controllable Ideas and Ideas for Residents, with an emphasis on behavioral changes and efficiencies. Each step in accomplishing the goals were broken down to include a list of specific tasks.

Mr. Marisic is working on the best approach to estimate Green House Gas Emissions for the commercial sector of Somers. He reported that there are about 200 commercial institutions in Town. Only about 20% of those businesses have data available electronically. ICLEI has a lot of regional data that can be used if the square footage of the buildings can be acquired. Mr. Marisic will be attending a BPI Contractor's Meeting as part of the Bedford Outreach. He will also be working with the Town Planner and/or Town Assessor on this project. Mrs. Schirmer provided him with a list of the larger commercial areas in Town and their owners. Mr. Mac Neal suggested that the companies that provide oil, gas and electric to these businesses be contacted to assist in this effort, as they have a record of consumption use. This can also be used for residential data. He also suggested that Wattzon.com be researched and utilized. This is a website that assists businesses and residents with monitoring their energy consumption. Perhaps they have some data on Somers. It is also a website that we should encourage Townspeople to use as part of the education process. Mr. Oringel wanted to remind everyone that since we are in the discovery/exploration stage in building a hypothesis for action, it must be tested by the community before it progresses too far.

Mr. Gilbert would like very much to select a few families in Town to use as models in demonstrating good "going green" practices. Ideally, the Low Carbon Diet Book by David Gershon should be used as a guideline. It would be nice to provide each family with a tote that is made of recycled materials, and in it include the book, energy efficiency light bulbs, a tire gauge, etc. Perhaps additional books can be purchased for future marketing uses. Mr. Oringel would like to see community groups and/or homeowner's associations involved in this model as well.

Mr. Mac Neal has completed a draft of the chapter entitled "Energy Municipal and Community" of the Town of Somers Climate Action Plan. Mr. Oringel thought that this is a great start at the scaffolding for our Climate Action Plan, but we need to work on the fundamental chapters and the input from the community will be very important in gaining acceptance

Mrs. Hopper will be researching existing energy efficiency Town building codes.

Town Board Resolutions

Three Town Board resolutions, all dated February 12, 2010, were received.

The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute support for the Consortium Energy Efficiency application through the Town of Bedford.

The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute the ARRA NYSERDA RF10 grant application.

The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute the contract with NYSERDA in the amount of \$5,000.00.

New Business

Green Week - Mr. Oringel would like the Panel to meet every other week between now and the end of April to properly plan for events the Panel will sponsor during Green Week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy Advisory Panel
Town Board
Town Clerk