

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
April 7, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Town Councilman Rich Clinchy, John Gilbert, Cristina Hopper, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic and Mike Marx.

Jerry Robock, member of the Town of Yorktown Energy Advisory Committee was also present.

**Minutes**

Mr. Marx made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Success in Yorktown**

Mr. Oringel introduced Mr. Robock to the Panel. He was invited to the meeting to talk about the success they had with David Gershon's *Low Carbon Diet* book. Yorktown used it with families and community organizations as a way to change the behavior, resulting in positive changes for the environment. It was a networking opportunity that educated the public via a friendly competition about "going green" practices. Somers will attempt to use this as a model as well. Information will be sent to the Homeowner's Associations in Somers. Mr. Gilbert will lead this project for the panel and the theme will be the "Greenest Loser".

**Green Evening**

The annual Green Evening will be held on April 27, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Somers Library. A flyer has been created and is almost finalized. It will be posted on the Town Website. The topics for the evening include: the rating that Somers received for the "How Green is My Town" survey, as well as ways to improve that rating; encouraging participation in the "Low Carbon Diet" and becoming the "Greenest Loser"; two local farmers who will speak about sustainable foods; and information about energy retrofits for homeowners (P.A.C.E.) will be discussed. Arrangements still have to be made to secure an organic landscaper. The School District is willing to assist the Panel in advertising the Green Evening via their Connect Ed, an automated call system. In addition, the Energy Advisory Panel will man an information table at the Library as part of Green Week, from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Updates**

The P.A.C.E. pilot program for Bedford should be launched by June. Several questions were generated and will be answered. As the pilot unfolds, all information will be clarified.

The NWEAC will meet on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bedford Town Hall to sign the intermunicipal agreement. All Panel members are invited to attend.

An intern can be secured from either Pace University or SUNY Purchase to assist as needed. Mr. Marisic can use help in his efforts with the residential/commercial information he is collecting.

The Town has received a \$352,000 stimulus funds grant that will be used to upgrade the lighting and control systems in the School District. \$80,000 was also awarded to the Town to hire an Energy Manager who will assist the Panel in developing a strategy and plan for Somers. The process has begun to have the grant money released. The Energy Manager position is a one year contract, and has been advertised on both the Town of Somers and ICLEI websites. Once all applications are collected, Mr. Oringel and Supervisor Murphy will review them, interview the top three candidates and make a recommendation to the Town Board. A bid package has to be created for the lighting and control system project. The School District received stimulus money to place solar panels on one of the schools, and NWEAC for energy efficient initiatives in Bedford, and to develop Green House Gas Emissions in Croton, as well as creating Climate Action Plans for the Towns in the NWEAC that don't have one.

At some point in the future, the NWEAC has to think about aligning themselves with other organizations such as Sustainable Hudson Valley. This will allow for a louder voice in Albany. Today, members of the NWEAC were in Albany talking to legislators and governmental agencies.

Tomorrow, Mr. Oringel is meeting with IBM representatives to discuss the possibility of them getting involved with the Consortium in two important initiatives: Cloud Computing and Smart Cities. Cloud Computing is allowing municipalities to lease time on their computer services for administrative purposes, in an effort to automate manual processes and save money. Smart Cities is an automated process that cities use by installing Smart meters for electricity, water and traffic control. Execution can result in substantial expense reduction which should have a dampening effect on taxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5 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