

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

**MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Councilman Clinchy, Flo Brodley, Helen Brady, John Gilbert, Jane Harsha, and Frank Maricic.

Minutes

Mr. Oringel made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. All were in favor.

P.A.C.E. Update

Unfortunately financial regulatory agencies (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) for FHFA have objected to financial provisions of the P.A.C.E. initiative. It could take up to two years to overcome these objections and roll out the P.A.C.E. program. This situation has resulted in numerous lawsuits. Mr. Oringel's opinion is the solution is to legislate to override the decisions that the agencies have made. This is unfortunate on many levels and the P.A.C.E. program would have put a lot of people to work, save energy and decrease our dependency on foreign oil.

As a temporary solution, NYSERDA is working on offering loans at a reduced cost. A 3% range is under consideration.

Upcoming Meetings

There is a meeting at the Bedford Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. on August 11 with GES to discuss commercial energy efficiency retrofitting.

On August 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., there will be a meeting with Ken Berino at the Somers Library to talk about disposal and treatment of organic waste.

John Hall has requested a meeting to discuss the P.A.C.E. and Smart Grid Initiatives. This session will be held at the Somers Library on August 13 at 2:00 p.m.

On August 27, there will be a meeting with Con Edison to talk about smart grids.

Action Plan

Mr. Maricic created an Action Plan of ways for the Energy Advisory Panel to promote energy efficiency. The culmination would be "The Somers Environmental Summit", to be held in January 2011. Mr. Oringel would like to "brand" this list of initiatives. In working toward this goal, the following have agreed to work on the following issues:

Establishing relationships with a few larger Somers non-profits - Ms. Brodley, Mrs. Harsha and Mr. Maricic.

Creating an electronic newsletter and maintaining the website - Mrs. Brady.

Maintaining the Facebook page - Mr. Maricic.

Planning for the Summit - Mr. Maricic and Mr. Oringel will meet to begin that process.

Securing a school for the Summit - Mr. Clinchy and Mrs. Schirmer will work together on this.

Speaking to the Somers Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Oringel and Mrs. Schirmer will make these arrangements.

Future Schedule

Since the attendance at the meetings has been low, all agreed a daytime meeting would be much more conducive to everyone's schedule. Moving forward, the Panel will meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon. Mrs. Schirmer will work on securing a place.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2 at 12:00 noon. Place to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy Advisory Panel
Town Board
Town Clerk

