

SOMERS ENERGY ADVISORY PANEL
335 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589

MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Councilman Clinchy, Flo Brodley, John Gilbert, Jane Harsha, Cristina Hopper and Frank Maricic.

Minutes

Mr. Oringel made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Somers Energy Expo – The event went well. Now the Panel has to move forward on some ideas generated and lessons learned. Mr. Oringel feels as though the Energy Advisory Panel needs more organization and structure. Mrs. Hopper will continue to handle the finances for the account, but thinks that more than one signature is needed. Mr. Oringel thought perhaps the account name should be changed. It was suggested that the Town Supervisor and Finance Department be consulted before any other decisions are made.

Energize Somers – A website has been created (energizesomers.org) for Energize Somers. Mr. Maricic and Mr. Robock will work on marketing and promoting this new concept. It is a vehicle to get Somers involved in retrofitting houses. Energy upgrade assistance is available, as well as low cost loans. A sub-committee of the Panel is needed to move forward. This was done in Saugerties, NY through NYSERDA with much success. It was suggested that a field trip to Saugerties be planned.

Contest – An idea has been generated to sponsor a contest for the Home Owners Associations in Town, as a way to get the word out to the residents about retrofitting their homes. The Association with the highest percentage of residents involved would win \$500 by at the end of the year. A question came up as to how to get Heritage Hills and the Willows involved as well, as there are attached houses. Mr. Oringel will create a proposal for further discussion.

Earth Day – Each year the Town and the School sponsor events supporting Earth Day that take place as part of Green Week. The Panel should have a presence as it does at the Independence Day Celebration. The theme should be Energize Somers. ICLEI has about 600 communities involved with Earth Day activities and Somers should be included. Mrs. Brodley will research this further.

Recycling – Mrs. Harsha announced that as of June 1, number 1 to 7 recyclables are

being collected throughout Westchester County. She is also concerned about an Annual Report required by the County that Somers evidently doesn't submit. Mr. Clinchy will research this further and see what can be done about notifying the residents of this change.

Zero Waste Days – The Consortium will be sponsoring a few Zero Waste Days in various communities across the County. These are drop off and sorting stations for heavier items. All County residents are eligible to participate.

Website – All of the aforementioned programs need to be advertised and linked to the various websites affiliated with the Somers Energy Advisory Panel. Mr. Maricic will contact Barry Singer, editor of the Heritage Hills Newsletter to see how they may assist as well. Mrs. Schirmer will have the Town Energy Advisory Panel website page updated.

New Panel Members Needed – The Energy Advisory Panel is in need of additional dedicated help. We are beginning to build an impressive array of projects that require thoughtful leadership and management. Mr. Oringel encouraged all Panel members to identify potential new members and will request that the need be advertised on the Town website as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 12:00 noon in the Meeting Room at the Town House, instead of April 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy Advisory Panel
Town Board
Town Clerk