

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589

HERB ORINGEL
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic and Rick Warren.

Minutes – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 7, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sustainability Plan – Mr. Oringel and members of the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC) have been speaking with the Supervisors of the fourteen communities in the Consortium with regard to the development of a Sustainability Plan for their individual Towns. Each will sponsor a meeting in an effort to get input regarding their Plan from their community leaders. All of the cumulative input from these meetings will determine the agenda for the NWEAC's Sustainability Conference at SUNY Purchase on March 17, 2012. Somers will hold their community leader meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 7 in the Somers Library Program Room.

The Energy and Environment Committee will be responsible for creating the Sustainability Plan for Somers. Within the next week, all were asked to create a list of six topics that they feel are relevant to Somers and should be included in the Plan. Once the list is finalized, these topics will become the chapter headings of the Plan. Committee members will select one of the agreed to topics and be responsible for documenting the objectives and desired outcomes. Mr. Blum will be the Plan integrator. The draft of the Sustainability Plan needs to be completed in time for the December 7 meeting. The Plan will be finalized after input from the community is gathered. All were sent the link to the Dubuque, Iowa Sustainability Principles. Dubuque was showcased as one of IBM's Smart Cities and what they have accomplished is very impressive. It

was suggested that their Principles be referenced as part of the process. The Town is in the process of updating its Master Plan. It was suggested that the draft of that Plan be referenced as well, as some of the topics chosen by the Committee for the Sustainability Plan might also be in that Plan. Once the Somers Sustainability Plan is completed, if there are any topics in that Plan that should be included in the Master Plan Update, a recommendation to do so will be made to the Town Planner and the Master Plan Committee.

NYSERDA Grant – A \$1M grant is available by NYSERDA to the ten Governor assigned regions in New York State. Somers is part of the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Project level data in the area of sustainability is to be submitted and all the Counties in that Region split the money.

Sustainability Essay Contest – Mr. Warren suggested that the Energy and Environment Committee sponsor a Sustainability Essay Contest in the Intermediate and/or Middle Schools as a way to educate the youngsters about sustainability. Hopefully if the students get involved, their parents will be willing to do so as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy & Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk