

SOMERS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
335 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589

MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha and Frank Maricic.

Minutes – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence Received – Mr. Oringel received a thank you letter from Assemblywoman Sandra Galef for serving as a panelist on an energy forum that she sponsored.

Name Change – At the June Town Board meeting a resolution was made to change the name of the Somers Energy Advisory Panel to the Somers Energy and Environment Committee.

Committee Members Update – John Gilbert has indicated that he has to cut back on his involvement. Cristina Hopper will not be participating over the summer. Helen Brady has been out of the loop for the past few months, but hopes to return in the fall and assist with communications.

New Members Update – Two residents have expressed an interest in serving on the Committee, Rick Warren and Mike Blum. Mr. Warren has sent a letter of interest to the Supervisor and Mr. Blum will be asked to do so. Mr. Blum's recommendation came from Councilman Morrissey. Mr. Oringel has had a conversation with both gentleman and each has an expertise that will be an asset to the Committee. Hopefully both candidates can be interviewed by the Town Board before their August 11 meeting and be appointed at that meeting so they can begin their term in September.

Intern – Mr. Oringel spoke with Daniel Fuchs, who is interested in interning for the Committee through a Westchester County government intern program. He will be a junior at the University of Michigan in the fall and is a mechanical engineering student. Daniel will be available to intern for five or six weeks.

2012 Budget – The 2012 Budget for the Committee is due to the Supervisor by August 15. Mrs. Schirmer will submit the paperwork.

Committee Plans for the Future – All agreed that the Committee needs a plan to move forward. This will be helpful in terms of each member knowing what is expected

of them. It was suggested that perhaps the Bedford 2020 model of task forces created be used. Mr. Maricic and Mr. Oringel have information to assist in this effort. Both Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Harsha agreed to create a skeletal outline for Committee review and comment. The mission will be reevaluated and both short and long term goals identified. Future programs include a Sustainability Fair and public awareness campaign to both educate and get the community residents and businesses involved.

NWEAC Update – The Consortium is in the process of planning a conference for March 2012. Sustainability is a priority goal for them. Government agencies have pooled together to provide funding for sustainability community development.

Somers Climate Action Plan – It is the intention to add the Somers Climate Action Plan and the associated actions that relate to it to the Town Master Plan Update. Mr. Oringel will prepare a letter to the Town Board advising them of the same.

New Logo – A new logo is desired for the Somers Energy and Environment Committee. Perhaps there is a graphic artist in Town or a Chamber of Commerce member that would donate their services to assist in creating a new logo.

Shredding Program – In the past, Heritage Hills has sponsored a shredding program. For various reasons, they are not able to do it this year. Mrs. Brodley will forward the information to Mrs. Schirmer to see if the Town can sponsor it this year.

Recycling – As of June 1, the list of items that must be recycled expanded to plastic containers coded 3 through 7. The information has been posted on the County website and a request has been made to have it placed on the Town website. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with the Supervisor's office.

Newsletter – Mr. Maricic has created a monthly newsletter for the Committee. Copies will be available at the Library and the Town House. A request will be made to have it added to the Town website as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4 at 12:00 noon in the Meeting Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Energy Advisory Panel

cc: Energy & Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk