

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

HERB ORINGEL
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Councilman Richard Clinchy, Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha, and Frank Maricic.

Jerry Robock, Energy Consultant was also present.

Minutes – Mrs. Brodley made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SEEC Sustainability Framework – Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Harsha met to create a sustainability framework for the Committee. The preliminary categories are as follows: Energy/Transportation; Food/Farming/Land Use; Environment/Waste Management; and Communication/Collaboration. All categories will include short, middle and/or long term goals and resources available to assist in achieving those goals. Included in the Energy/Transportation target area is the ICLEI model, Town uses and the NWEAC achievements. Communication/Collaboration would include connecting with Town Boards/Committees, the Somers Central School District, Homeowner Associations, Town Organizations/Clubs and local businesses. A four seasonal newsletter will be created; flyers for distribution at the Town House and Library and a speakers bureau. Calls to action will be developed by partnering with community organizations to co-sponsor projects in the fall/winter and spring/summer. All members of the Committee will be liaisons to the various organizations. Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Harsha were commended for a job well done. It was suggested however that energy and transportation be treated separately.

NWEAC Updates – On September 8, the NWEAC will have a meeting to describe Energize Somers in its entirety, including the requirements.

Dan Welsh is working on a complete streets initiative – making biking and walking easier in communities, as well as a future lithium battery recharging station. SEEC representation would be ideal.

A class on developing and implementing codes for land use as it relates to sustainable community development, is in the process of being set up at Pace University. Mr. Oringel will keep all posted with regard to details.

Sustainability Speakers Bureau – All agreed that it would be a good idea to start a speaker's bureau on sustainability. Four to six topics will be selected and conducted monthly at the Somers Library. Flyers will be distributed and the schedule will be included in the newsletter.

Meeting Day and Time Change – Some have indicated that a noon meeting on Thursdays is not conducive to their schedules any longer. In addition, two new Committee members should be appointed at the August 11 Town Board meeting and the meeting schedule might be difficult for them as well. All will be canvased as to their availability and a decision will be made as to the new day, time and location.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1 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