

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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HERB ORINGEL
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2012

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

Mr. Gadigian was welcomed as the newest member appointed to the Committee by the Town Board.

Mr. Gilbert has resigned from the Committee.

Minutes – Ms. Brodley made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Work in Reis Park – Councilman Clinchy announced that as of October 15, there will be various projects going on in Reis Park, one of which is LED lighting. He would have hoped that the Energy Environment Committee would have been consulted. Mr. Maricic will contact Joe Barbagallo of Woodard and Curran regarding the project.

Municipal Solar Buyers Group – Mr. Oringel reported that NWEAC has 12 municipalities now involved in the Municipal Solar Buyers Group. Solar can be leased for municipally owned buildings and properties. They will aggregate the demand by application.

Somers Central School District – Mr. Maricic met with School Superintendent Dr. Blanch and Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning Julie Gherardi to discuss coordinating projects between the Town and the School District. The end result was most positive. An Executive Summary was submitted and it will also be used as the basis of the article sent out in November.

On October 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Somers High School PTSA will hold a Community Service and Career Expo. The Somers Energy Environment Committee will have a table at this event. Help is needed to man the table.

Sidewalk Committee – A while back, Mr. Warren received an email about a meeting to be held in October about a Sidewalk Committee. He has not heard anymore. Mr. Oringel will follow up with the Town Supervisor.

Yorktown/Somers Patch – Mr. Oringel and Mr. Maricic recently submitted an article to the on-line paper, the Yorktown/Somers Patch. The Editor has since approached Mr. Oringel about writing regularly about energy and the environment. This would be a perfect opportunity in reaching the goal of increasing communications to educate the community about what the Committee is doing. Mr. Maricic has agreed to oversee this and will see if he can get some High School students involved. Mr. Warren will share the essays from the contest held earlier this year as well.

Getting Involved with Bedford – Earlier today, Mr. Maricic met with Mary Beth Kass of Bedford to get Somers involved with their commercially based organization. Somers will now be joining them.

Town Planner – Mr. Oringel and Mr. Blum met with the new Town Planner to review the Somers Sustainability Action Plan with her. She was very impressed.

Newsletter – Mr. Maricic plans to continue with the newsletter, but needs content. Perhaps he can find help with this at the Somers High School PTSA Expo next Thursday.

Monthly Articles Being Submitted – Two articles have been distributed to date, one from Ms. Brodley and one from Mr. Robock. Ms. Brodley reminded all that it would be very helpful to mention the Committee name as well as its members in all articles that are sent out. The website should be included and pictures whenever possible.

Retrofitting Mr. Maricic's House – In November, Mr. Maricic's house is being retrofitted. He plans to offer a workshop at his house while this is going on as a way for residents to getting a better understanding of the benefit of having the work done after an audit. Ms. Brodley asked if there was any way follow up could be done with the folks that had the audit done, but haven't followed through with planning for a retrofit.

Upgrading the Oringel Residence – The Oringel residence has been "Energized" and Mr. Oringel has made use of the NYSERDA low cost loans and on-bill financing.

Somers Sustainability Action Plan – A presentation of the Somers Sustainability Action Plan was made to the Town Board last month. The next step is to reach out to community groups with it. A suggestion was made that it be presented to the Somers Open Space Committee as well.

Single Stream Recycling – Mrs. Harsha brought up the concept of Single Stream Recycling and how it might be something that can be done in Somers. This could be something that is offered to the five northern Westchester communities (including Somers) that are not in the County program. Single Stream Recycling refers to a system in which all paper fibers, plastics, metals, and other containers are mixed in a collection truck, instead of being sorted by the resident into separate commodities (newspaper, paperboard, corrugated fiberboard, plastic, glass, etc.) and handled separately throughout the collection process. In single stream, both the collection and processing systems are designed to handle this fully commingled mixture of recyclables, with materials being separated for reuse at a material recovery facility. This could lead to more modern waste management techniques than using landfills.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk