

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

May 2, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Herb Oringel, Mike Blum, Frank Maricic, Shannon Nash and Rick Warren.

Resident Dan Gadigian and Energy Consultant Jerry Robock were also present.

Minutes – Mr. Oringel made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2012 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Energize Somers – Many thanks were extended to Mr. Maricic for all his hard work and efforts in a successful launch of Energize Somers. A question and answer session with energy guru Dick Kornbluth was available to the residents on April 14, with the official launch took place on April 21. Thanks were also extended to Mr. Warren for overseeing the Middle School essay contest on “Sustainable Somers”. The winners were acknowledged and they read their essays at the event. Seventy-six residents have signed up for free energy audits to date. There is a process in place to monitor the progression of these audits. NWEAC is working on creating a renewable energy funding source that would assist those with following through with recommended work that would need to be done as a result of these audits. Solar energy companies are also willing to install solar at no cost with the understanding that the user take over the expenses after 15 years. The cost savings is about 10% of their utility bill.

In addition, the program received a lot of exposure at the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on April 15. About 150 flyers were distributed.

Sustainable Somers – Mr. Blum and Ms. Brodley will be meeting with the Lions Club at

some point in May to present a project that they may be able to work on. All agreed that groups will help as long as they have a project plan presented to them and don't have to come up with a project. Mr. Blum will work on the projects and the Committee members will assist with disseminating the information to the community groups that are interested in getting involved and will be the liaisons. Mr. Warren is willing to work on Complete Streets.

NWEAC Updates – An RFI was sent to local solar companies, and seven responses were received. The list was narrowed down to two companies who will submit proposals for solar solutions. Solar installation and financing will be available to municipalities, residents, institutions and commercial businesses. The benefit is a lower cost as a result of the volume.

The NY Power Authority is launching a pilot program to the municipalities in the NWEAC of issuing 20 free electric vehicles and charging stations. In Somers this could be an ideal replacement for the vehicles that are used by the Building Department to drive around town to do site visits, inspections, etc.

Mini Waste Management District – Dan Welsh is working with representatives from Bedford, North Salem, Lewisboro and Somers (Mrs. Harsha is the Committee's representative) to create a mini waste management district. These towns are not part of the County waste management program. They are discussing programs such as Leaving Leaves Alone. It was suggested that a trip to a transfer station be arranged. It would also be ideal if the residents of Somers could bring their scraps to the Highway Department for example, and they in turn can turn it into mulch that the residents and businesses could then acquire. Another idea was to have a bulk garbage pick-up for the residents, as well as an e-waste drop off site. Garbage vendors should be approached to see if they would be willing to charge for the amount of garbage versus by the number of pick-ups. The ultimate plan is to have numerous services available to the residents of each of these four communities, even if it means one municipality offers the program, that all four are able to benefit from.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6 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

