

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

June 6, 2012

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

Resident Erica Chambers and Energy Consultant Jerry Robock were also present.

Minutes – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Somers Sustainability Action Plan – Mr. Blum presented the first draft of the Somers Sustainability Action Plan. It is a 5 year plan that should ultimately be an addendum to the Town Master Plan. Included are three initial projects, spread over two phases, with goals for each. All were ask to review the Plan thoroughly. Bi-weekly conference calls will take place on June 13, 27 and July 11, 25 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss it in detail, so the document can be finalized at the August meeting. Mr. Oringel will make arrangements to meet with the new Town Planner and the Town Supervisor before it is sent to the Town Board. All thanked Mr. Blum for the outstanding job he did on the Plan.

Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Planning Process – Mr. Oringel is representing Westchester County in the Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability planning process. \$30 million per year is available for three years. All involved are working on a set of projects for their region (seven counties per) that this money can be used on. Complete Streets is an ideal example of how this money can be beneficial.

Independence Day Celebration – All were asked to give any time they could between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on June 30 to man the Energy Environment Committee table at

the Independence Day Celebration in Reis Park. Free energy audit information will be available.

NWEAC Updates – The Energize program has now been launched in six of the fifteen communities in NWEAC. Mr. Maricic is Somers' leader in the State run NYSEERDA program that supplies free energy audits and retrofits. To date about 40 residents have signed up for this program, which can result in a 10 to 40% savings for them.

Recyclable Plastics Guideline – Mr. Clinchy gave all a copy of the recyclable plastics guideline.

Reduction on Building Permit Fees – In an effort to encourage residents to reduce their energy costs by installing solar and making renewable energy improvements to their homes, a memo was sent to the Town Board requesting their consideration of reducing building permit fees to residents that have processed permits for solar installations and renewable energy home improvements. This request has been placed on the June Town Board agenda.

Solar Power – Mr. Robock announced that Sungevity has partnered with NWEAC to provide residential solar power. The equipment is installed at no cost for a 15 year leasing agreement. At the end of the contract, the resident can opt to renew the lease, buy the equipment or have it removed. There is an estimated savings of 30% to the homeowner. In addition to the homeowner savings, a \$750 bonus is provided to the homeowner and \$750 to NWEAC. Solar City is in the process of creating something similar for municipal and commercial buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park. The Committee will not meet in July due to the Independence Day holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk