

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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SOMERS, NY 10589

HERB ORINGEL
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2013

Chairman Oringel called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Flo Brodley, Dan Gadigian, Frank Maricic, Herb Oringel and Rick Warren.

Energy Consultant Jerry Robock was also present.

The sparse turnout limited the ability to accomplish the objectives for this meeting.

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

Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan – Earlier today, Mr. Oringel sent an electronic draft of the Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plan to all members. The Somers Sustainability Action Plan should mirror the emphasis points of this plan. Projects have been identified. On January 24, work will begin on implementation. As part of the process, both private and public funding will be sought. The third stage of the plan will be the articulation of enabling policy changes needed to be executed on a State level.

Ms. Brodley asked how the efforts of the Somers Energy Environment Committee fit into the Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan. Eventually, as the goals of that plan are achieved, the benefits will trickle down to the residents of the communities within that region in various ways. An important philosophical discussion about the value of higher order strategic thinking versus bottoms-up project orientation took place. Mr. Oringel asserted that they are mutually reinforcing and is intent on demonstrating the value of each. In the meantime, all of the Energy Environment Committee members have to be proactive in educating the Somers community about the Somers Sustainability Plan that Mr. Blum created. Education is important, but community groups, organizations and residents need to be involved, even if on a small scale. All were given the attached list

of Community Contacts from which the Somers Energy Environment Committee members can select known colleagues to begin the outreach efforts in a productive fashion.

Promotion of the Energize programs continues. Ms. Brodley and Heather Flourney will be speaking to the Heritage Hills Condo Presidents on January 16. Arrangements will be made for Mr. Blum and Ms. Brodley to speak to the Heritage Hills Condo Association Presidents in March or April about the Somers Sustainability Plan. Mr. Maricic continues collaborative efforts on different levels with the schools. Ms. Nash wrote an article that will be submitted to the media this month. Mr. Warren is in the beginning stages of working with the Town on a complete streets initiative. Mr. Blum will make arrangements to speak to the Lions to see what project(s) they can get committed to. Mr. Gadigian has agreed to create a calendar and project tracker. Mr. Oringel will speak to the Library Director about offering an informative program series through the Library. Mr. Robock will speak to the Girl Scouts to promote the Low Carbon Diet. Mr. Maricic will write an article on the function and accomplishments of the Energy Environment Committee with suggested ways in which the community at large can help and/or even join the Committee, as additional folks are needed. Mr. Oringel will write an article about the Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan and how the Somers Sustainability Action Plan fits into that big picture.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 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

attachment