

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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HERB ORINGEL
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2013

Chairman Oringel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Frank Maricic and Herb Oringel.

Councilman Richard Clinchy, Energy Consultant Jerry Robock, and resident Michael Yee were also present.

The sparse turnout at the January meeting limited the ability to accomplish the objectives, as a result a special meeting was held on January 17. Ms. Brodley, Mr. Clinchy, Mrs. Harsha, Mr. Maricic, Mr. Oringel and Mr. Warren were in attendance. The objectives of the meeting were to develop an action plan that would deploy the good work Mr. Blum has led (Somers Sustainability Plan) and to re-introduce the Somers Energy Environment Committee to the community in a Library Series so as to recruit citizens to help implement the Somers Sustainability Plan. The original thought about scheduling full blown presentations to various community groups was shelved. The plan is to use "Ambassadors" to introduce the Committee to the various groups, establish personal relationships and invite them to the Library Series as a way to stimulate interest and attendance. Mr. Warren will reach out to the Lake Lincolndale and Shenorock Homeowner's Associations, and Mrs. Harsha, Valley Pond; Ms. Nash, Girl Scouts; Ms. Brodley, Heritage Hills, Somers Woman's Club and At Home in Somers; Mr. Oringel, Somers Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club; Mr. Blum, Somers Lions Club; and Mr. Maricic, school PTA's and the Somers High School Senior Class. Groups that still need Ambassador assignments are: Dean's Bridge, Lake Purdys, The Preserve, Somers Chase and the Willows Homeowner's Associations, and the Boy Scouts. The dates for the Library Series are April 16, May 7, June 4, 25, and July 9. Some of the potential topics are: Climate Change Science (update); Waste Management: Single Stream Innovation; Transportation/Complete Streets; Energy: Energize/Solar; and Sustainability: A Homeowners Perspective.

Minutes – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2013 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Solarize – Mr. Robock reported the NWEAC is in the process of trying to implement a Solarize program for residents, modeled after that started in Portland, Oregon. The solar would be bought outright, financing would be available and this would be a much better option than leasing solar, especially if ones electric rates are high.

Miscellaneous:

It was suggested that a designation be created (i.e. “Energize Star Home”) for those who have retrofitted their homes, in an effort to attract a buyer when selling the home.

Mr. Maricic attended an Energize meeting yesterday. A recommendation was made that communities sponsor a recognition event for those who have had an energy audit or retrofit done. Testimonials are important. Perhaps Somers can do something around Earth Day and hand out certificates at a Town Board meeting. Mr. Clinchy was asked to assist in this effort.

Mr. Yee suggested that data be collected as to why and why not residents had energy audits or retrofits done. This information could be helpful in advertising the program moving forward.

Mr. Clinchy attended a webcast earlier today on local efficiency programs for consolidation. There is \$4 million available. Any ideas on how the town and school or fire department could work together on consolidating programs for better efficiency would be welcomed.

Mr. Maricic reported that the two television channels will publicize the Energize program and Ms. Brodley has done a great job in assisting with the promotion of this program.

Mrs. Harsha recently reached out to one of the school PTA’s and was thanked for her efforts.

On February 12, there will be a program on Climate Reality in White Plains.

Another special meeting will be held on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Town House, so that topics can be selected for each of the Library Series dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 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