

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 5, 2013**

Chairman Oringel called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Flo Brodley, Frank Maricic, Herb Oringel, and Mike Yee.

**Minutes** – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting as submitted. Ms. Brodley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Sustainability Series** – The second program offered as part of the Sustainability Series co-sponsored by the Somers Library was much more successful than the first. Those in attendance were excited about Energize Somers and had lots of questions. Mr. Maricic did an excellent job in explaining the program and sharing his own experience of having an energy audit done. Ms. Brodley suggested that calling on her would make the case for condo assessments and offer those residents an example to follow. All were asked to sign in and indicate how they heard about the Series. Not only was this helpful, but proved the need for the various forms of media channels to be used in advertising/outreach. One of the residents present had gone as far as completing the application for NYSERDA, but had never submitted it. He will now do so as a result of this informative presentation. Another emailed Mr. Oringel earlier in the day to say thanks for making the program available and has offered to write articles for the Committee. All thought an article on her reaction to the program would be appreciated. Other observations made included to address someone with lots of questions in a personal setting at the end of the meeting, rather than a public forum, especially if they are becoming negative and always let the audience know that their help is not only needed, but welcomed and give examples of ways in which they can help. The remaining programs, to be held at the Library at 7 p.m. are on June 25, Sustainable Energy Methods, being led by Mr. Robock; and on July 9, Mr. Gadigian will present Our Land, Water, Air.

**Farmer's Market at Muscoot** – Energize NY will have an informational table at the

Farmer's Market at Muscoot on Sunday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Maricic will provide Energize Somers information and thought it would be a good idea if some Committee members could be present as well.

**Independence Day Celebration** – The Town-wide Independence Day Celebration will be on June 29 at Reis Park. Mrs. Schirmer will make arrangements for the Committee to have an informational table at the event. This is a great way to give awareness to the Somers Energy Environment Committee. All agreed that give-a-ways should be available. Ms. Pozzi was supposed to take care of that. Mr. Oringel will follow up with her.

**Fireworks Contribution** – A motion was made by Mr. Oringel and seconded by Ms. Brodley to donate \$25 toward the fireworks at the June 29 event. All were in favor.

**Meeting with Town Planner** – Mr. Oringel met with Town Planner Syrette Dym earlier today to make arrangements to have the Somers Energy Environment Committee added as an interested agency for any future developments, etc. happening in Town. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up to be sure that she gets the site plan packages that are distributed for the Committee.

**Master Plan Update** – Mr. Oringel also had a discussion with both the Town Supervisor and Planner to have information on Sustainable Somers added to the Master Plan Update. It will simply be a matter of condensing and editing the Somers Sustainability Action Plan that Mr. Blum has already created. Mr. Blum will develop this submission. Once completed, Mrs. Schirmer will have it distributed to all necessary parties.

**Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan: Consolidated Financial Application Update** – The funding model has been set-up as follows:

**Category 1** (Open Enrollment): up to \$1 million is available for communities to adopt streamlined permitting and other ordinances for photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations, with awards of up to \$10,000 per project. Applications will be accepted starting August 1, 2013 and until 4:00 p.m. EST on September 30, 2014, or until funds are exhausted or the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.

**Category 2** (Competitive): up to \$4 million is available for communities to create or revise comprehensive plans, including updating zoning ordinances and addressing sustainability and resiliency, with awards of up to \$400,000 per project. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. EST on August 12, 2013.

**Category 3** (Competitive): up to \$25 million for large scale, capital sustainability projects contributing to community resiliency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with awards ranging from \$1 to \$5 million per project. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. EST on August 12, 2013.

**June 6 Town Board Work Session** – At the Town Board Work Session on June 6, the winners of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Essay Contest will be acknowledged and awarded. Mr. Oringel did notify Somers School District Superintendent Ray Blanch about the results of this Contest. All will receive a Town proclamation. A discussion ensued about the veracity of awarding prize money. Ms. Brodley disagreed about giving ranking prizes. She believes all should be awarded equally, and it probably should not have been called a contest.

In addition, it is expected that the Town Board will give final approval to the Complete Streets Policy at their work session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, July 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park. This is a change to the regular meeting schedule due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk