

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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**Town of Somers**  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589

MICHAEL BLUM  
CHAIRMAN



**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 1, 2014**

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Mike Blum, Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha, Herb Oringel, Rick Warren, and Mike Yee.

The following members were not present: Frank Maricic, Stacie Vourakis, and Chris Zaberto.

Town Councilman Richard Clinchy and residents Allan Golden, as well as Nerino Persic were also present.

Our newest member Don Bleasdale was congratulated.

As both Mr. Golden and Mr. Persic may be interested in joining the Committee, all introduced themselves, gave a brief summary of their background, as well as how/why they got involved with the Committee. All three current initiatives were explained.

**Minutes** – Mr. Oringel made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mr. Blum seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**INITIATIVES:**

**Complete Streets** – On August 21, Mr. Yee made a presentation to the Town Board on Complete Streets, which was well received. Ultimately the goal is to connect Reis Park to Route 139 to Brick Hill Road to Route 202 to the Towne Centre at Somers with sidewalks. The project will be done in phases. Funds for the first phase, scoping out the project, are available through the Greenway Committee and it is the hope that they will give \$5,000. A request will be made to the Town to fund the difference. The State

is planning to create a turning lane with a light in front of the High School. Mr. Warren and Mr. Yee would like to meet with the Highway Superintendent to discuss this further. Mrs. Schirmer will make those arrangements.

**Solarize Somers** – On September 19 a letter was emailed to all Town organizations soliciting their support and volunteers to help in the Solarize Somers initiative. Unfortunately there were no responses to the September 30 deadline. Two letters of support are needed by mid-October so Mr. Blum can complete the application. Both he and Ms. Brodley will work on this. Mr. Blum will meet with the Town Board and ask them to assist in getting support from their contacts in community organizations. Furthermore, the Committee decided to focus on three to four contacts versus the broader community organizations.

**Reboot Energize Somers** – As the numbers for Somers are not as good as expected, a discussion took place with regard to increasing the awareness and importance for folks to have an energy audit done through the Energize program. Ms. Brodley will discuss future plans at the November meeting.

#### **Other Updates:**

Sustainable Westchester is working on a solar buying program for municipalities. It includes the remote net metering concept. Since the Town really can't put solar panels on their building roof tops, creating solar carports for example in Reis Park may be an option, the next step is to look at open space that the Town owns to erect solar panels in those areas. The Town is supporting this initiative and has identified 6 sites for installation of solar panels.

Mr. Blum met with Somers School District Superintendent Ray Blanch and Assistant Superintendent Ken Crowley. They have already applied for solar options through the K through Solar program. An assessment will be done in a few weeks.

For residents and businesses that cannot accommodate solar on their properties, solar gardens are an option. An acre is needed for 200kw and one buys shares into this program. Mr. Blum will continue to investigate Non-For-Profit organizations that will support this initiative.

Mr. Oringel is attending a meeting tomorrow with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef regarding a new bill enabling condominiums to share solar installation.

At the November Committee meeting, Mr. Oringel will announce some Sustainable Westchester updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5 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