

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**

**November 6, 2014**

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

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

The following members were not present: Don Bleasdale, Frank Maricic, and Chris Zaberto.

**Minutes** – Ms. Brodley made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mr. Oringel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:**

Chairman Blum announced that there are two Somers High School Seniors who are interested in serving as guest members of the Committee, Conor Talleur and Emilio Zillo.

**SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER:**

Mr. Oringel was pleased to report that the Northern and Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortiums have combined to create Sustainable Westchester. Thirty communities are represented and this venture will allow them to share services and knowledge. Their first meeting will take place on December 2 and a 12 member Board of Directors will be selected. Their Committees will include Energy Efficiency, Land Use, Solar, Waste Management, and Water Management.

**PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Complete Streets** – The 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. The deadline for submissions is December 8. A request will be made to the Town to fund the difference. Next steps will be establishing a budget and time line.

Mr. Warren and Mr. Yee met with the Highway Superintendent Tom Chiaverini with regard to a plan the State has to create a turning lane with a light in front of the High School. Mr. Chiaverini provided them with quite a bit of insight as to how to move forward in coordinating that project with Complete Streets. They were also told who to contact at the Department of Transportation. Mr. Chiaverini is willing to serve on the Complete Streets Advisory Committee.

**Energize Somers** – Ms. Brodley was pleased to announce that 36 residents have had their work done; 1 had only partial work completed; 1 had the audit done and did the work themselves; and 12 had the audit done and are waiting for the next steps.

On October 30, Ms. Brodley and Mr. Warren attended the Somers High School Volunteer Fair for grades 9 to 11. Nineteen students signed up to help the Committee. Ms. Brodley will follow up and have some of them help with Energize.

Ms. Brodley would also like to see activities once again planned for the week around Earth Day. These student volunteers could assist in this effort as well.

Ms. Brodley asked if the money left (\$1,541) in the Somers Expo account could be used by the Committee. Mr. Blum said that is the hope once those funds are given to the town they will be allocated for use by the Committee. The paperwork has also been submitted for a NYSERDA grant in the amount of \$2,600, which the Committee would also like access to.

### **SOLARIZE SOMERS:**

A submission was made, but unfortunately Somers didn't get selected as we didn't provide enough detail on the outreach plan. The only towns that got selected had formed a coalition. Recommendations were given by contact Toni Bouchard and we have to decide if full access to solar is better than having large numbers of buildings that have solar. It was suggested that community solar sharing be explored. The Town would like to use that approach for municipal funding. 1 acre is needed for 200 kilowatts of solar energy. There are six sites in Somers that could accommodate this type of solar, one of which is in Heritage Hills. Perhaps this site could serve as a pilot program. Toni Bouchard will speak to NYSERDA about creating a community solar sharing program for Somers. One would buy shares and their electric bill would be adjusted by the amount of savings.

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING:**

Chairman Blum was a guest speaker at the November Chamber of Commerce meeting. The response to his presentation was positive. In particular, one of the Board members from Shenorock is interested in starting an Energize Shenorock program.

**FUNDING FOR ENERGIZING NON-PROFITS:**

Chairman Blum and Mr. Bleasdale met with the Building Inspector regarding the non-profits in town that have a resident as part of their organization, as they might be eligible for Energize funding. Mrs. Vourakis is following up with each.

**MEETING DAY AND TIME CHANGE:**

As Chairman Blum plans to attend all Town Board meeting work sessions with Energy Environment Committee updates, a decision was made for the Committee to change their meeting day and time. Beginning in December, meetings will be held on the same day as the Town Board work session (generally the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday) at 5:00 p.m. in the kitchen in the Town House.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. in the kitchen at the Somers Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk