

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

April 9, 2015

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Mike Blum, Flo Brodley, Frank Maricic, and Mike Yee.

Residents Aidrian O'Connor, and Emilio Zullo, as well as Pace Law School Sr. Staff Attorney Jeffrey LeJava were also present. Supervisor Morrissey, Councilman Cirieco and Councilman Clinchy were also at the meeting for a portion of time.

Minutes – Ms. Brodley made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Zoning for Community Virtual Solar Gardens – Pace Law School Sr. Staff Attorney Jeffrey LeJava discussed the pilot program that he is working on with the Towns of Mamaroneck and Somers, as well as the Cities of Kingston and Peekskill. Each of the communities will choose a project and Mr. LeJava will assist with creating the language needed to adopt appropriate changes to the zoning codes. In the case of the Community Virtual Solar Gardens project for Somers, remote net metering is needed; appropriate locations have to be determined; land use regulations researched; and necessary amendments proposed. The goal is to set the groundwork, so all is in place when the project is finally approved.

Mr. Blum spoke with an IBM engineer in Burlington, Vermont and it sounds as if they build a solar garden, it will only be large enough to accommodate their facilities.

WISE Project – Somers High School Senior Emilio Zullo is working on a business case for the Community Virtual Solar Gardens project. He and Mr. Blum are meeting as

necessary to discuss updates, etc. Mr. Zullo will also contact representatives in Harvard, Massachusetts regarding a functioning solar garden that they have.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Earth Week 2015 Calendar – Ms. Brodley shared the Earth Week 2015 Calendar. Press releases have been sent, as well as copies of the calendar. All Committee members have been asked to post them in businesses, religious institutions, etc. in town. It is the hope to build on this calendar next year.

Complete Streets – Prior to this meeting, Ms. Brodley and Mr. Yee met with Ted Kolankowski of Barton and Loguide to refine the Complete Streets layout. A matrix of available funding will be provided as well. During Earth Week, a Power Point presentation of this project will be offered that will also include maps. It will be presented to the Town Board at their May 14 meeting.

Community Choice Aggregation – Supervisor Morrissey announced that this evening the Town Board will be adopting a resolution authorizing entering into an agreement to participate in a Community Choice Aggregation pilot program to allow residents to purchase electricity from energy service companies.

Energize – All 54 of the residents who have completed the Energize program will be invited to be recognized at the May 14 Town Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Blum represented Somers at the Energy Improvement Corporation meeting. They are providing competitive financing for energy improvement projects.

Somers High School is announcing their kick-off for K through Solar.

Work continues on researching solar parking canopies.

Solarize will kick-off their second phase in June. Somers will apply again.

Mr. Blum met with the Co-Chairs of Sustainable Westchester regarding their need for additional members on their Committees, as well as seeking non-profit status.

Mr. Maricic will be updating the town's greenhouse emissions as part of the Climate Smart Communities Profile.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7 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