

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**

**June 4, 2015**

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Mike Blum, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, Rick Warren and Chris Zaberto. Flo Brodley, Stacey Vourakis and Mike Yee were absent.

**Minutes** – Mr. Maricic made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Harsha seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Recognition of Conor Talleur and Emilio Zullo** – Somers High School students Conor Talleur and Emilio Zullo have been working with the Energy Environment Committee on their WISE projects. Conor has been consulting with Mr. Yee and organized with the Boy Scouts to lay out the trails as part of the Complete Streets project. Emilio worked with Mr. Blum and just presented his project on solar farms. He did a great job.

**Trails** – Both the developers of Hidden Meadow and Somers Crossing plan to connect their developments through trails. Mr. Warren mentioned the Yorktown Trail Committee and all the good things they have done so far.

**Master Plan Update** – At the last Town Board meeting, the building, traffic and zoning portions of the Plan were discussed. Environmental is next, which will include the Somers Sustainability Action Plan.

**Complete Streets Leadership and Transition** – Mr. Zaberto has agreed to take over the leadership for Complete Streets when Mr. Yee moves from Somers. In the meantime they will begin transitioning. The Greenway Grant in the amount of \$10,000 was submitted.

**Solar for New Developments** – Mr. Bleasdale will make arrangements to meet with the developers of Hidden Meadow and Somers Crossing, as well as the Energy Improvement Corporation with regard to including solar in their projects.

**Municipal Buyers Group** – RFP's will be sent out to installers to provide parking canopies. The deadline for submissions is July 28. Each Town will lease the equipment.

**Solarize Round 2** – The kickoff for Solarize Round 2 will be at the end of June. Ideal is to partner with another community. Mr. Blum has been in contact with the Town of Yorktown's Energy Advisory Committee and their Supervisor, but has not received a response. Supervisor Morrissey will follow up with their Supervisor. If they are not interested in partnering, North Salem will be approached.

**Microgrid** – NYSERDA has put together monies to hold a statewide contest of \$1 million, broken up into small grants. A small grid is placed in the central part of a community with smart switches, which can detect if a line goes down. Then it will automatically switch the line to another source, in turn making the town more resilient. The initial focus will be on critical services, with multiple layers that will build up from there, eventually being placed in neighborhoods. Booz Allen Hamilton completed a feasibility study. Support letters were supplied, as well as some requested information. The next step will be to prepare a proposal for installation. Currently there are only four or five communities bidding for this money and Somers is one of them.

**Climate Smart Communities Strategy** – Supervisor Morrissey has to sign off on the Climate Smart Communities Strategy so the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory can be updated. Approval to do so should be given at the June Town Board meeting.

**Website** – Ms. Brodley has submitted some suggestions for changes to the website. All were asked to review the website as well and give input. Updates will be made to the Facebook page as well.

**Banner** – Mrs. Schirmer will research size and a company for a banner for the Energy Environment Committee.

**Independence Day Celebration** – The annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 27 in Reis Park. Set up is at 3:00 p.m. A table, chairs, canopy, etc. have to be supplied. All agreed give-a-ways would be a good idea, a flyer about Solarize, and a map of Somers with addresses ballooned for those who have Energized their homes, installed solar, etc.

**Energize** – The Town Board will be acknowledging those residents who have Energized their homes at their June 11 meeting at 7:30 p.m. Sixty invitations were sent out and to date, 16 have responded as attending. Certificates will be issued by NYSERDA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 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