

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

July 9, 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, Stacey Vourakis, Rick Warren and Chris Zaberto. Flo Brodley was absent.

Resident Herb Oringel was also present.

**Resignation** – Mike Yee has resigned from the Committee as he is relocating. The Supervisor gave him a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Yee will be missed and his contributions, especially with Complete Streets, were most appreciated.

**Minutes** – Mr. Zaberto made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mr. Maricic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Complete Streets** – Mrs. Schirmer has been asked to follow up with the Finance Department to see if the \$10,000 Greenway Grant money has been received. Mr. Zaberto has yet to meet with Mr. Yee to take over the leadership for Complete Streets, but will do so between now and the August meeting. Moving forward, Mr. Zaberto will oversee the sidewalk portion of Complete Streets and Mr. Warren, with the help of Mr. Maricic, the trails piece. Mr. Warren will report back in August with a plan for moving forward. Suggestions were to meet with Somers Land Trust President Michael Barnhart and to contact the NY/NJ Trails Conference for guidance.

**Independence Day Celebration** – Despite the inclement weather, Mr. Blum had several folks that were interested in Complete Streets and what the Energy Environment Committee was doing, as well as volunteering. Four residents shared their emails and Committee members have offered to reach out to each of them in an effort to further educate them and invite them to the next meeting. Mr. Bleasdale will contact

Ms. Zhang, Mr. Maricic - Mr. St. John, Mrs. Harsha - Mr. Daley and Mrs. Vourakis - Mr. Salha. Mr. Blum also had a banner made for the Committee table display.

**Solarize Round 2** – New Castle has agreed to partner with us in the endeavor. The application was submitted on July 7. We should hear back in January. If Somers is selected, arrangements will have to be made to alter the website page for registration purposes.

**New Library Director** – Mr. Blum met new Library Director Andrew Farber. He is very interested in sustainability. They talked about installing solar panels on the Library roof; partnering with the Energy Environment Committee and offering programs; and having a book section in the Library dedicated to sustainability. The Library currently has a seed lending and food share pickup programs.

**Micro-grid** – The kickoff announcement was yesterday for the NY Prize Micro-grid funding. Representatives from NYSERDA, Booz Allen, the Energy Environment Committee, NYSEG, as well as the Town were present. A feasibility study is due in January. If we get to the next phase, then money will be issued for an engineering design, followed by the actual installation.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – An update of the Town's greenhouse gas emissions is in the process of being done. It is quite possible that we will get some funding from Cleaner Green Communities.

**Volunteers** – Volunteers are needed to assist with upcoming projects. Mr. Blum would like to set up a table in the Heritage Hills Activity Center in an effort to move this forward since many of the residents are retired professionals. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to the Society to see this to fruition.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13 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