

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**

**January 14, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

The following members were present: Mike Blum, Don Bleasdale, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, and Marialisa Zywotchenko.

Flo Brodley, Stacie Vourakis, Rick Warren and Chris Zaberto were absent.

Resident Jason Crawford and visiting intern Elissa Pereyra were also present.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Maricic and seconded by Mr. Blum to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Maricic and seconded by Mr. Blum to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Solarize Somers Update** – Best Energy Power is still in discussions with Heritage Hills as they are interested in putting solar panels on the Activities Center and possibly the Fitness Center. Best Plumbing has a proposal to install solar as well. The residential portion (Direct Energy Solar) has reached the Tier 3 level. Building Permits for solar installations have begun to be processed. It is very probable that 50 contracts will be signed by the end of the program campaign on March 7.

The last two Solarize workshops are scheduled for January 23 (snow date: 1/24) and February 6 (snow date: 2/7) in the Library Program Room at 12:00 noon and 11:00 a.m. respectively. The session on January 23 will include a solar equipment demo and that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, a driving tour of residential solar installations, followed by a Q &

A session.

**Complete Streets Update** – Unfortunately the Town didn't get awarded the \$1.5 million grant offered through the NY Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program and the Empire State Development's Regional Council Capital Fund entitled "Somers Green Sidewalks and Living Classroom Project" applied for by Woodard and Curran's Joe Barbagallo. The grant writer hired by the Town will continue to research grants available for this project.

On January 13, Mrs. Harsha represented the Committee at a Complete Streets Training sponsored by Sustainable Westchester and held in Bedford. A lot of pertinent information was given on funding and implementing a Complete Streets plan. Maintaining once constructed is important and promoting must include the benefit to the community at large. A copy of the Power Point presentation used will be sent to Mrs. Harsha and shared with the Committee.

**Micro-Grid Update** – The Booz Allen representatives now have all the information that they need to move forward on completing the feasibility study to provide a micro-grid for the Town.

**Pace Law School Land Use Law Center** – On December 18, Mr. Blum represented the Town at the Pace Law School Land Use Law Center concerning zoning requirements. A report was produced and is now part of the Town Comprehensive Plan Update. John Nolon, Professor of Law at Pace University School of Law will present recommendations to the Town Board at their February 4 Work Session.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**\$100,000 Grant** – The Town is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant through Senator Murphy's office. It is proposed to be used for solar panels on the Library roof and parking canopies at the Highway Department.

**Somers High School Student Interns** – Mr. Blum will make arrangements to meet with the Somers High School Principal in an effort to secure some student interns.

**Plans for 2016** – In closing, Mr. Blum asked all to think about plans for 2016. The Somers Sustainability Action Plan, which is now on the Town website, should be referred to.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4 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