

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**

**October 5, 2016**

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The following members were present: Mike Blum, Don Bleasdale, Flo Brodley, Jerry Stern, Rick Warren, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko.

Jason Crawford, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, and Stacie Vourakis were absent.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Ms. Brodley to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 meeting. Mr. Blum seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Brodley to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2016 meeting. Mr. Bleasdale seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Celebrate Somers Chamber Event Update** – The Energy Environment Committee had an informational table at the annual Celebrate Somers event sponsored by the Somers Chamber of Commerce on September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Towne Centre at Somers. Although not many visited the table and the location was not ideal, it does give an opportunity to make people aware of the Committee and its purpose.

**Complete Streets Update** – On October 27, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. there will be a Rockland County Complete Streets Workshop in Pomona. Mr. Blum and Mr. Stern will attend, as well as Mr. Zaberto if he is able. A report will be given at the next meeting. In addition, Dan Welsh will be invited to join us at our November meeting to talk about

what they did in Lewisboro as part of their Complete Streets project. All agreed that arrangements should be made for Mr. Blum, Mr. Stern and Mr. Zaberto to meet with Supervisor Morrissey and Councilman Clinchy in an effort to discuss how to move this project forward in the Town of Somers. A discussion also came up about a few members splintering off to create a non-profit so fundraising can be done to see this to concept to fruition. It was suggested that this coordinate with the construction of a new Plum Brook Bridge that can be used for walking, biking and emergency vehicles only.

**Solar Garden Project Updates** – Mr. Blum met with Open Space Committee Chairman Michael Barnhart regarding the inquiry of land for the Solar Garden project. Once the abandoned condos in Angle Fly Preserve are removed, land would be available in that area. He also has an appointment to meet with the director of Somers Manor Nursing home as they have a huge open space. The IBM property is for sale. There might be an opportunity with the new owners. Once space is secured, sources for funding will be researched.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair** – Once again, the Committee has been invited to have an informational table at the Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair on October 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Both Mr. Blum and Mr. Stern will attend. Mr. Blum will create a handout of project needs that can be distributed to the students.

**NYSERDA'S Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program** – At the request of the Supervisor's office, Mr. Stern attended the NYSERDA'S Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program at SUNY Orange in Newburgh on September 28. All received a summary of the presentation, as well as a copy of the program and a high impact action list via email from Mr. Stern. Mr. Blum will make the Town Board aware of the Committee's intention to move forward with this grant. A conference call will be set up for early next week so that the group can collectively decide which high impact actions will be taken. All were asked to review the documents that Mr. Stern sent prior to that call.

**Meeting Day and Time Change** – A decision was made to change the meeting day and time as there have been numerous issues with achieving a quorum at the meetings. At the start time of this evening's meeting, again, there was not a quorum. A discussion ensued about petitioning the Town Board to set a quorum that is less than required and institute a rule that no more than three consecutive meetings can be missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk