

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

November 2, 2016

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mike Blum, Don Bleasdale, Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha, Jerry Stern, Stacie Vourakis, Rick Warren, and Chris Zaberto.

Jason Crawford, Frank Maricic, and Marialisa Zywochenko were absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Stern to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting. Ms. Brodley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Quorum and Meeting Absences – It has been determined that since the Committee is sanctioned by the Town, the NYS Open Meeting Law has to be followed with regard to meeting quorums. In an effort to deal with meeting absences, all agreed that Mr. Blum will create an *Attendance Commitment Letter* that each member will sign and return to the Secretary. It states that in order to make the Somers Energy Environment Committee a more effective Committee, appointed members will make an effort to attend all meetings. If three consecutive meetings are missed, they will voluntarily remove themselves from the Committee and submit a letter of resignation to the Committee Chair with a copy to the Committee Secretary.

Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair – Mr. Blum and Mr. Stern manned the Committee's informational table at the Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair on October 27. Ten students expressed interest in getting involved. Each Committee member will be assigned a student so they can contact them and let them

know how they can help.

NYSERDA'S Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program – Applying for the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program is still a work in progress as the Town grant folks didn't necessarily agree that it was a worthwhile application and there has been some hold up within the Town process to get approval for some of the requirements. Mr. Blum will attend the November 10 Town Board meeting to discuss this further.

Complete Streets Update – Mr. Stern attended the Rockland County Complete Streets Workshop on October 27. Monies are available as part of a Tri State Transportation campaign. They were responsible for starting Complete Streets in New York. There must be proof of a well-designed and safety concept before submitting an application. Proposals must include performance measures, accountability and implementation. The State has set aside money to help communities secure matching funds. Key is to have the Town establish an ordinance or official policy to use as a guide since a resolution has no real teeth. Mr. Blum will write up what he thinks the process should be moving forward and will submit it to the Town Supervisor, Planner and grant people.

In addition, efforts are still in progress to have Dan Welsh join us an upcoming meeting to talk about what they did in Lewisboro as part of their Complete Streets project.

Solar Garden Project Updates – Mr. Blum still has to meet with the Facilities Manager at Somers Manor to discuss the possibility of a solar garden. They are interested.

If lucky enough to be awarded the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities GRANT, all agreed that it should be used toward a solar garden. Mr. Blum made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Brodley to use these funds toward a Solar Garden Project. All were in favor.

Solarize 2 Update – In anticipation of Solarize 2, it was suggested that an assessment survey of those who participated in Solarize 1 be completed. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with Direct Energy Solar. The Committee will do the marketing and provide the materials for Solarize 2. The RFP will indicate that a volume discount be provided.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting with Supervisor Morrissey and Councilman Clinchy – Mr. Blum met with Supervisor Morrissey and Councilman Clinchy earlier today to discuss some concerns with collaboration and communication of grants between the Committee, Town Planner and grant people. The Town has lost out on some opportunities as a result of this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7 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