

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

February 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

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

Stacie Vourakis and Rick Warren were absent.

Resident Jason Crawford was also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Maricic and seconded by Mr. Blum to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Solarize Somers Update – The program is entering its last phase with a deadline of March 7. As of today, 48 contracts have been signed and the goal is 50. The incentive for reaching 50 is a free solar system installation. On February 6, residents interested in the program will have an opportunity to drive by homes in town that have already installed solar to see their systems. The tour will be followed by a Q & A in the Somers Library Program Room that includes some of those residents. A solar system will also be on display. It is the hope that all members of the Committee will be present. Ms. Brodley will bring the refreshments.

In an effort to give a last push for the Solarize Somers program, a representative from Direct Energy Solar will be at Bobo's Café (Heritage 202 Center – 249 Route 202 – the old Tazza Café) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 9, 11, 16, 18, 23 and 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to talk to residents that may be interested in the Solarize Somers program. A representative of the Somers Energy Environment Committee will

also have to be present to sit with the Direct Energy Solar rep.

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, as well as Best Plumbing.

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. Since we are getting a free solar system installation, perhaps this money can be used for a feasibility study for Complete Streets. Mr. Blum will follow up with the Town Planner who is coordinating grants for the Town.

Complete Streets Update – Mr. Zaberto reported that unfortunately the Town didn't get awarded the \$1.2 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. He has been in touch with the grant writer hired by the Town and they will continue to research grants available for this project. Mr. Blum would like to have a conference call set up to speak with them as well. Mr. Zaberto has also been in communication with Barton and Loguidice and they are on board to help in any way they can. The Department of Transportation website is also being checked regularly for any grant announcements. A conversation ensued about using the grant money from Senator Murphy for a Complete Streets feasibility study. Mr. Blum asked that Mr. Zaberto have a plan for steps moving forward on this project at the April meeting, as Mr. Zaberto will not be able to attend the March meeting.

Micro-Grid Update – Booz Allen has been in close communication with NYSEG throughout the development of the Somers Micro-Grid concept, and met with NYSEG on November 20 to gather information. Through continued active collaboration, they will ensure that our proposed generation and electric network improvements will provide the best possible micro-grid design without adversely impacting the existing infrastructure. NYSEG's full support of the Somers Micro-Grid design is essential to create a strong proposal with which to move forward to Phase II.

Pace Law School Land Use Law Center – This evening John Nolon, Professor of Law at Pace University School of Law will present recommendations to the Town Board regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update and zoning recommendations.

Plans for 2016 – Again, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Earth Day 2016 – All agreed to sponsor a program culminating Solarize Somers and plans for moving forward, in celebration of Earth Day this year. This will be finalized at

the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3 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