

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**

**August 4, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Mike Blum, Don Bleasdale, Flo Brodley, Jason Crawford, Frank Maricic, Jerry Stern, Rick Warren and Marialisa Zywochenko.

Jane Harsha, Stacie Vourakis, and Chris Zaberto were absent.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Ms. Brodley and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Complete Streets Sub Committee Report** – A sub-committee consisting of Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Harsha, Mr. Stern, Mr. Warren and Mr. Zaberto was created last month. Arrangements still have to be made for the group to meet to brainstorm ideas to move forward on this project. Initial thoughts included to begin educating the community by doing both a paper and on-line monkey survey, creating a marketing plan and sending news media articles. It was also suggested that Lewisboro's Dan Welsh be invited to meet with the group to share his knowledge on the project they did.

**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.

**Solarize 2 Project Update** – Direct Energy has offered \$10,000 in marketing services and supplies for a Solarize 2 endeavor. Mr. Blum received an email from the Supervisor indicating that the Town must complete a Request for Proposal for this project, as the opportunity cannot be solely given to Direct Energy. A memo requesting the solicitation of RFP's will be sent to the Town Board.

**Library Solar Panel Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** – A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on September 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Somers Library to celebrate the free 5kw solar system that is being given to the Town by Direct Energy Solar to be installed on the Library roof in mid-August. This will also allow for an opportunity to announce upcoming solar initiatives, including Solarize 2, which will happen in conjunction with Earth Day 2017.

**Independence Day Celebration** – The Committee had an informational table at the Independence Day Celebration in Reis Park on June 25. Unfortunately there was not a great turnout.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Celebrate Somers Event** – The annual Celebrate Somers event sponsored by the Somers Chamber of Commerce will take place on September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Towne Centre at Somers. Mr. Bleasdale, Ms. Brodley and Mrs. Zywochenko are available to help. Mrs. Schirmer will speak to Mrs. Harsha, Ms. Vourakis and Mr. Zaberto about their availability. She will also inquire as to whether or not Mr. Zaberto has all the supplies, handouts, etc. from the Independence Day Celebration as they were not returned to her office as requested.

**Somers League of Women Voters** – The Somers League of Women Voters asked Ms. Brodley if Mr. Blum could come and speak to their group on Monday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m. about the Energy Environment Committee's initiatives. He is available and Ms. Brodley will confirm his attendance.

**Municipal Solar Buyers Group Tool Kit** – Mr. Blum will request an update from Herb Oringel of Sustainable Westchester regarding the Municipal Solar Buyers Group Tool Kit.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Somers Town House Kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk