

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

December 7, 2016

Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Flo Brodley, Jane Harsha, and Stacie Vourakis were absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Blum to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting. Mr. Bleasdale seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

NYSERDA'S Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program – There has been a delay within the Town process to get approval for some of the requirements for the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities GRANT Program and as a result, Mr. Blum and Mr. Stern met with the Town Board to discuss this further at their meeting on December 1. Permission was given to the Committee to deal directly with the folks from Grants R Us as long as they are informed when grants are being applied for. Most of the qualifying opportunities available have been completed, but the Town is still exploring the option of buying an electric car. If that doesn't come to fruition there is a project that entails installing LED lights in the pole street lights.

Senator Murphy \$100,000 Solar Grant – Town Planner Syrette Dym is proposing that the \$100,000 solar grant money being issued by Senator Murphy be used to install solar panels on the salt shed and flat roof of the Highway Department.

Municipal Solar Buying Group – Mr. Blum received a notice from Sustainable Westchester that the Municipal Solar Buying Group has been launched.

Complete Streets Update – As discussed last month, a key component in securing funds for Complete Streets 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 wrote up what he thinks the process should be moving forward and submitted it to the Town Supervisor, Planner and grant people.

Solar Garden Project Updates – 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. A location for this garden still has to be established.

Solarize 2 Update – A Solarize Satisfaction Survey was created and mailed on December 2 to the 31 residents that participated in Solarize 1. A lengthy discussion took place this evening in anticipation of launching Solarize 2. All agreed to complete a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) rather than a RFP (Request for Proposal) that will be sent to local solar companies. Once all the information is gathered, informative and educational sessions will be set up so that residents can receive guidance with this aspect of energy resources available, as well as others. Those that have already installed solar will be invited to give feedback to the community as well. These sessions will be advertised on the Town website, via an email blast, in The Somers Record, etc. A question came up as to whether or not the Community Choice Aggregation program should be included. Mr. Blum will speak to the Supervisor.

Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair – Ten students who expressed an interest in getting involved with the Committee at the Somers High School Community Volunteer Fair on October 27 were contacted via email and unfortunately none responded. Mr. Blum and Mr. Stern were surprised as the students really seemed interested. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with Somers High School Principal Mark Bayer about this.

Attendance Commitment Letter – In an effort to deal with meeting absences and often times not having a quorum as a result of this issue, an *Attendance Commitment Letter* was created. Each member will be asked to sign it and return to the Secretary. Collecting them from all members is still a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS

SEEC Quarterly Newsletter – It was suggested that the Somers Energy Environment Committee create an informative quarterly newsletter that can be emailed out. Mrs. Schirmer is willing to handle the publication of it, but the members of the Committee have to supply the content.

New Castle 311 Mobile App – Mr. Blum shared information with the Town Board about the Town of New Castle’s 311 Mobil App at their December 1 meeting. He urged them to research having something similar available for the Town of Somers. It can be downloaded on Apple and Android smartphones, provides much useful information and allows for many mobile opportunities for the residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4 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