

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

April 7, 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, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, Stacie Vourakis, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko. Rick Warren was absent.

Resident Jerry Stern was present.

Chairman Blum welcomed resident Jerry Stern who is interested in getting involved with the Committee.

Minutes – A motion was made by Ms. Brodley and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2016 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Solarize Somers Update – The Solarize Somers program ended on March 30 with much success. A final press release went out. Somers ended up issuing 32 solar permits and will be awarded a free 5 kW solar system. A discussion ensued about the location. It was unanimously decided that it should be installed at the Somers Library. That recommendation will be made to the Town Board at their work session this evening. It was suggested that this program be offered yearly for the month of April.

The Committee will be provided with a list of residents that didn't qualify due exposure direction. These folks will be solicited when the Solar Garden project is up and running. Mr. Blum is researching open land for a Solar Garden. One acre of open land can hold 220 kW of solar panels, which will service about 30 homes. Ideal is to get a donation of land in order for it to be beneficial.

The Town is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant through Senator Murphy's office. Mr. Blum will follow up with both the Town Supervisor and Planner about these funds.

Complete Streets Update – Unfortunately funding for these types of programs has decreased. There is a campaign amongst local Senators, including Senator Murphy to increase the amount of money available. A local developer plans to create sidewalks as part of his project near the Towne Centre at Somers. Mr. Crawford will contact IBM. All agreed this topic needs some creative thinking.

Micro-Grid Update – Booz Allen submitted their Feasibility Assessment about a micro-grid in Somers and it was determined that unfortunately our community is not a good candidate at this time.

Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – Thanks were extended to Mr. Bleasdale for manning the Committee's table at the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 3. There was a good turnout and lots of interest in the Complete Streets project. Flyers for Somers Springs Into Sustainability were distributed as well.

Somers Springs Into Sustainability – Ms. Brodley and Mrs. Schirmer reviewed all details for the *Somers Springs Into Sustainability* event to be held on April 30, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Somers Town House. The intent is to share with the residents what has been done in terms of sustainability, as well as what is being planned for. Attendees include Energize NY, Field Goods, Solarize Somers, Somers Land Trust, Somers Litter Task Force, Somers Seed Lending Library, and Westchester County Cornell Cooperative Extension, as well as food courtesy of Bobo's Café, Fratelli's, Il Forno, Italian 101, Mama Rosa's, Somers Diner, Somerfield's, and Taste Deli. Children's activities will be available and biodegradable wipes with the SEEC logo distributed. It is the hope that all Committee members will be present. All will receive an email with further details.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5 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