

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
JERRY STERN
CO-CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2017

Co-Chairman Jerry Stern called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were present: Susanne Cox, Jane Harsha, Jerry Stern, and Rick Warren.

Don Bleasdale, Frank Maricic, Stacie Vourakis, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko were absent.

Associate member Jason Crawford was present.

Minutes – The minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum of those present at that meeting in attendance this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

NYSERDA'S Clean Energies Communities GRANT Program Update – Last week Mr. Bleasdale, Ms. Cox, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Stern were trained by the Hudson Valley Regional Council on inputting the necessary information needed to complete the benchmarking requirements. Mr. Stern thanked everyone for their participation and appreciates their willingness to help. In 2018, each of the trained members will take care of this task quarterly. Unfortunately, there has still not been any word about the NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities GRANT Program.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities 2018 GRANT Program – Mr. Stern just learned that the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities 2018 GRANT Program is not for new applicants but for those in regions that didn't apply in 2017. However, Mr. Stern feels as though the Committee should still pursue LED Streetlight Replacement and Climate Smart Community certification.

Partnering with Somers Middle and High Schools Update – Ms. Cox has reached out to the Principals of the Somers Middle and High Schools as well as the alternative high school to discuss some cooperative projects that can be done in the spring.

Partnering with Somers Women’s Club Update – Mr. Stern will be attending the Somers Women’s Club meeting on December 13th to discuss ways in which their group and the Committee can partner.

Sustainability Lecture Topics and Speakers Update – Mrs. Harsha is willing to explore topics and speakers for a Sustainability Series to be held quarterly in the Somers Library Program Room. Sources for speakers to explore include: NYSERDA, Hudson Valley Council, Pace Environmental Center and the Westchester County Cornell Cooperative Extension. All agreed that the topics must be viable for a resident.

One World and Sustainable Westchester Update – Ms. Cox will reach out to One World who presented at Sustainable Westchester’s Zero Emissions Summit to see how we might be able to bring their offerings to Somers. She will correspond with Mrs. Zywochenko about this project as well.

Solar Farm Project Update – In Mr. Diamond’s absence, an update on the Solar Farm Project will be given at the January meeting.

Energy in the Bank Presentation – The Energy in the Bank folks are in the process of preparing a proposal. Once received it will be shared with all and a recommendation made to the Town Board.

Partnering with the Somers Open Space Committee/Somers Land Trust – Mr. Stern would like a representative of the Somers Energy Environment Committee to attend the Somers Open Space Committee/Somers Land Trust meetings on a monthly/bi-monthly basis so the two groups can collaborate on programs, grants, etc. Mr. Crawford will attend their next meeting on January 18th at 4:30 p.m. in the Somers Town House Map Room. Moving forward, the Open Space Committee meeting minutes will be sent to the members of the Energy Environment Committee and vice versa.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Opportunity – Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program – Ms. Cox will look at the information provided for the Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program and report back in January.

Aris Renewable Energy – Mr. Stern received an email from Jake Whitney, Northeast Regional Business Manager for Aris Renewable Energy regarding off-grid, sustainable exterior lighting and Aris Wind’s Remote Power Unit. Arrangements will be made for a meeting so that a proposal can be prepared.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held

on Wednesday, January 3rd 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
Open Space Committee