

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Telephone
(914) 277-5582
Fax
(914) 277-3790

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
JERRY STERN
CO-CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2018

Co-Chairman Don Bleasdale called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Susanne Cox, Frank Maricic, and Jerry Stern.

Jane Harsha, Stacie Vourakis, Rick Warren, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko were absent.

Associate member Jason Crawford was present.

Minutes – The minutes of the December 6, 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 2017 GRANT Program Update – Mr. Stern shared the results of a debriefing phone call that took place to discuss the reasons why the 2017 grant application for crosswalks was rejected. It appears as though they prefer projects submissions that are fairly generic such as LED conversion or electric/hybrid vehicle replacement for fossil-fuel vehicles.

NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program Update – Grant applications for 2018 are due in March. Last month a decision was made to submit a proposal for LED Streetlight Replacement. Mr. Stern has a call into NYSEG to get some information needed from them to see this to fruition. If this ends up not being a viable option, the purchase of two hybrid vehicles and charging stations will be pursued. Mr. Stern will reach out to the Finance Director regarding the Town's needs in this regard.

Converting the Reis Park Ballfield Lights to LED Update – Mr. Diamond and Mr. Zaberto were researching the possibility of converting the Reis Park ballfield lights to LED. Mr. Bleasdale will request an update from them in writing.

Smart Climate Communities Certification Update – Efforts need to be made to advance the level of certification from pledge to bronze. All were asked to once again look at the list provided and consider assisting in this goal. If you are working on something let everyone know and if you are unable to attend a meeting to give us an update an email in your absence would be most appreciated.

Partnering with Somers Middle, High and Intermediate Schools Update – Now that the holidays are over, Ms. Cox will reach out to the Principals and/or appropriate staff of the Somers Middle, High, and Intermediate 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 attended the Somers Women's Club meeting on December 13th to talk about ways in which their group and the Committee can partner. They were very enthusiastic about the opportunity and will discuss it further at their next meeting. Identifying a project/s that they can assist with might be the best option.

Sustainability Lecture Topics and Speakers Update – Last month, Mrs. Harsha indicated that she was willing to explore topics and speakers for a Sustainability Series to be held quarterly in the Somers Library Program Room. All agreed that the topics must peak the resident's interest. An update was not given as Mrs. Harsha was not present this evening. Mr. Maricic is willing to reach out to Mrs. Harsha to assist in this effort. Perhaps it is best at this point to just plan for one presentation around Earth Day.

One World and Sustainable Westchester Update – Ms. Cox reached out to Mrs. Zywochenko about assisting with contacting One World who presented at Sustainable Westchester's Zero Emissions Summit to see how we might be able to bring their offerings to Somers. All agreed to place this idea on hold until Mrs. Zywochenko is able to follow up.

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

Energy in the Bank Presentation Update – The Energy in the Bank folks have prepared a proposal that they hope to present to the Town Board at their January 11th meeting.

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

Aris Renewable Energy Update – 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.

Committee Meeting Attendance Update – For the fourth month in a row, there has not been a quorum present of Committee members. A total of five members are needed to be present at each meeting. In the past, numerous attempts have been made to rectify this situation (changing the day and/or time of the meeting; requesting that attendance commitments be signed; the Chair having a one on one conversation with those lacking in attendance. Mrs. Schirmer has been asked to provide Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Stern with attendance records for 2016 and 2017. Upon receipt they will converse as to how to move forward in dealing with this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7th 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