

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

April 4, 2018

Co-Chairman Don Bleasdale called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Frank Maricic, Stacie Vourakis and Rick Warren.

Susan Cox, Jane Harsha, Jerry Stern, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko were absent.

Associate members Mike Blum and Jason Crawford were present, as well as Committee Liaison Councilman Richard Clinchy.

Minutes – The minutes of the January 3, 2018 meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum of those present at that meeting in attendance this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program Update – A submission deadline postponement for the grant of mid-May was received. Streetlight LED replacements were not viewed favorably by the Town as they don't want to take ownership and maintenance responsibilities. Instead, the option will be for clean fleet upgrades. The Finance Director suggested a Ford Fusion Responder hybrid police car and Chevy Volt for the nutrition program. Mr. Kehoe will also follow up with NYSERDA consultant Greg Mumby.

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 – Ms. Cox will be reaching 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 – Several members of the Somers Women’s Club expressed interest in supporting the Committee on future projects such as composting, recycling and plastic bags. The Committee needs to identify a project that they can assist with.

April 22nd Earth Day Speaker Presentation Update – There has been no commitment to arrange for a speaker for Earth Day.

Solar Farm Project Update – It has been determined by Mr. Diamond that a municipal solar farm project in Somers is not a viable option.

Energy in the Bank Presentation Update – Unfortunately the Committee and Town Board could not identify sites for ground mounts. The Energy in the Bank folks said without ground mounts or additional and substantial roof mount locations, the project would not be financially feasible.

Grant Opportunity – Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Update – Ms. Cox was looking at information provided for the Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program.

Aris Renewable Energy Update – Mr. Stern had a telcon with Aris Renewable Energy and they gave a good presentation. Their devices are best utilized where the cost of new light installation would require trenching and bring in new electric utility power to a location. Even at that stage, the cost would still be double for a conventional LED light post. Based on this determination, further exploration will not happen.

NEW BUSINESS

Green Building Code – Mr. Bleasdale would like to explore adopting a green building code. Hastings code will be shared as a template. This discussion will continue next month.

Sustainable Westchester – Mr. Stern was informed by Supervisor Morrissey that Herb Oringel will be appointed as the Town Ambassador to Sustainable Westchester. As a founder of Sustainable Westchester and as an early leader of the Energy Environment Committee, he is an ideal person. However, in an effort to avoid conflicting strategies, it is Mr. Stern’s recommendation that Mr. Oringel be made a member of the Committee to make sure that everything is well harmonized. Mr. Bleasdale will reach out to Mr. Oringel.

Solar Powered Speed Limit Alerts – Councilman Clinchy would like to explore the opportunity for funding to supply solar powered speed limits alerts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd 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