

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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DON BLEASDALE
JERRY STERN
CO-CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2018

Co-Chairman Jerry Stern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, Jerry Stern, Stacie Vourakis, Rick Warren and Chris Zaberto.

Marialisa Zywochenko was absent.

Associate member Jason Crawford was present, as well as Committee Liaison Councilman Richard Clinchy. In addition, former Chairman, Mike Blum attended the meeting as well.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Zaberto and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Stern and seconded by Mr. Zaberto to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Bleasdale and seconded by Mr. Stern to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Zaberto and seconded by Ms. Vourakis to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2018 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Bleasdale and seconded by Mr. Zaberto to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2018 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program Update – The NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program to purchase two electric vehicles will be submitted by the deadline date of May 15th. The amount of the grant is \$50,000.

Smart Climate Communities Certification Update – Efforts can be made to advance the level of Smart Climate Communities Certification from pledge to bronze. Educational activities offered would qualify.

Mrs. Harsha was asked to suggest three topics that she thinks the community would be interested in learning about and then speakers can be solicited so that a Sustainability Lecture Series can be offered at the Library.

Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Stern met with Somers High School physics teacher Chris Pietris regarding mentoring needs for a sustainable energy project, this might be a qualifying activity as well. A part of this will be presenting the winners to the Town Board. Mr. Maricic is willing to follow up with Mr. Pietris to see this to fruition in the fall.

Mr. Warren thought it might be nice for the Committee to create a document listing the Trails in Somers. He will present a draft at the June meeting.

Ms. Vourakis would like to explore having community composting and recycling facilities available in Somers. She will research what Bedford has and report back next month.

All were reminded that the Somers Sustainability Action Plan should be referenced with regard to future projects that the Committee engages in as it is now part of the Town of Somers Comprehensive Plan Update.

Partnering with Somers Women's Club Update – The Somers Women's Club expressed interest in supporting the Committee on future projects such as composting, recycling and plastic bags. The Committee will be back in touch with them when a project is identified.

Green Building Code – Hastings on Hudson has a green building code and Mr. Bleasdale would like to explore adopting the same or similar for Somers. It was suggested that he share his draft with the Building Inspector before presenting anything to the Committee. He will have an update next month.

Sustainable Westchester – Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Stern met with Herb Oringel with regards to him being Sustainable Westchester's liaison to the Committee. He agreed. Next step is to make arrangements to have a meeting with their Executive Director Bob Elliott to coordinate projects and funding for such with other communities. The Committee will be made aware of the details about that meeting in case they would like to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Reappointment to SEEC – Mr. Crawford would like to be reappointed as a Committee member. That information has been relayed to the Supervisor's Office.

Meeting Day/Time Change – In an effort to deal with the lack of quorum issue at monthly meetings, the Committee agreed to change the meeting day and time to the 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. The meetings will continue to be held in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park. The remaining meeting dates are: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 15 (3rd Monday, Columbus Day holiday), November 19 (3rd Monday, Veteran's Day holiday), and December 10.

Energy Audit of Town Buildings and Facilities – The Town Board passed a resolution to solicit RFP's for an Energy Audit of Town buildings and facilities. They were sent to Con Edison Solutions, Honeywell and Johnson Controls and are due by May 18th at 4:00 p.m. to the Town Clerk. Mr. Bleasdale, Mr. Maricic, and Mr. Stern will review the RFP's that are submitted, and make a recommendation to the Town Board.

Storm Related Issues with NYSEG – Mr. Blum shared a plan that he created to deal with the storm related issues experienced with NYSEG, including preventative measures that need to be done to avoid them from happening again. In his opinion, the Committee should be adopting and implementing this plan. It was noted that at their Work Session tomorrow evening, the Town Board will be discussing creating a NYSEG Task Force. Mr. Zaberto volunteered to serve on this Task Force representing the Somers Energy Environment Committee. Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Stern will attend the meeting and speak further with the Town Board about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 11th at 7:30 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