

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

June 11, 2018

Co-Chairman Don Bleasdale called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

Marialisa Zywochenko was absent.

Associate member Herb Oringel, as well as the Somers Women's Club President Rosemary Rossamando and Club member Sandy Oringel were also present.

The Somers Women's Club gave an overview of their organization. They are interested in the possibility of co-sponsoring a project/activity with the Somers Energy Environment Committee. A discussion took place between the two groups about the possibilities.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Stern and seconded by Mr. Maricic to approve the minutes of the May 2, 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 was submitted in May. The amount of the grant is \$50,000. We should hear as to a decision by mid-July.

Suggested Speaker Topics Update – All were asked to give some thought about suggested speaker topics for a future lecture series. The list of topics is as follows: Green Gardens - Safe and Sustainable Landscaping and Lawn Care; Plastic Footprint - How and Why to Curb our Dependence on Plastic; Recycling and Composting - How to

Reduce and Re-cycle the Trash and Garbage in your Home (or Small Business); An Environmentalist's View of the Essential Role and Benefits of Trees in a Healthy, Sustainable Ecosystem and Human Environment: Bottom Line, Why and How Trees are our Friends; Tree Planting (and fundraising); Local and Organic Food; Efficient Heating and Cooling (Sponsors) and New Technologies: Batteries and Fuel Cells; and The Tremendous Positive Environmental Impact of Adopting a Plant Based Diet.

It was suggested that Field Goods food share and Energize NY be added to this list as well. All were asked to select their three top choices before the next meeting so the discussion could continue.

Mr. Stern asked Mr. Oringel if he was aware of any Towns in Sustainable Westchester that might be involved in educating their community about any of these topics. He said that Lewisboro is on the leading edge of these types of activities and we should reach out to Dan Welsh.

Ms. Vourakis is particularly interested in a Town composting station, using the Town of Bedford's as a model. In addition, she feels that it is important that the children in the community have exposure to this concept early on so as they grow up it becomes a habit. This can be done through contests, etc. Some thought the students in Primrose Elementary School would be too young so it should start with those in the Intermediate School. It was also suggested that the thrust be on teaching them how to compost. Mr. Stern will reach out to the SIS PTA President.

Trails in Somers Update – Mr. Warren has discovered a USB of biking and walking trails in Westchester County. He will also have a conversation with the Town Engineering consultant regarding trail development in Somers, as well as sidewalks. It was reported that the Somers Land Trust plans to incorporate the development of trails into their plans for the recently acquired Rhinoceros Creek Reservation.

Sustainable Westchester Update – Mr. Stern asked Mr. Oringel if he would make arrangements for a meeting with Sustainable Westchester's Executive Director Bob Elliott to coordinate projects and funding for such with other communities. In addition, he would like support from them sponsoring three or four meetings yearly with other Towns that have committees that specifically deal with energy, the environment and sustainability.

Green Building Code Update – Mr. Bleasdale met with Building Inspector Efreem Citarella on June 8th to discuss adopting Green Building Codes in the Town of Somers similar to those in Hastings on Hudson. Mr. Citarella will reach out to their Building Inspector. He also showed him a stainless-steel HVAC duct that someone local is working on patenting. Mr. Bleasdale will reach out to builder Jim Boniello with regard to energy improvements they will be implementing while building their new development Somers Crossing.

Energy Audit of Town Buildings and Facilities RFP Update – RFP's for an Energy

Audit of Town buildings and facilities were sent to Con Edison Solutions, Honeywell and Johnson Controls. Only Honeywell and Johnson Controls returned proposals. Mr. Bleasdale, Mr. Maricic, and Mr. Stern reviewed the RFP's and gave an overview, as well as a comparison of each. A recommendation will be made to the Town Board.

NYSEG Task Force Update – Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Zaberto attended the May 3rd Town Board Work Session to learn more about their creation a NYSEG Task Force. Mr. Zaberto volunteered to serve on the Task Force so that the Somers Energy Environment Committee is represented. Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Zaberto suggested that an educational lecture be offered at the Library in an effort to teach the residents how to identify rouge trees and vegetation around power lines, as well as other pole related issues. Supervisor Morrissey was delighted and thinks this would be a great start to educating the public about the electric infrastructure in Somers.

Smart Climate Communities Certification Update – 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.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, July 9th 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