

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

August 13, 2018

Co-Chairman Don Bleasdale called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Jason Crawford, Jane Harsha, Frank Maricic, and Rick Warren.

Jerry Stern, Stacie Vourakis, Chris Zaberto and Marialisa Zywochenko were absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Bleasdale and seconded by Mr. Crawford to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainable Westchester Update – At the June monthly meeting, Mr. Stern had asked Mr. Oringel if he would be willing to arrange 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 Sustainable Westchester to sponsor three or four meetings yearly with other Towns that have committees that specifically deal with energy, the environment and sustainability. Mr. Oringel was not present this evening and there has been no other communication about these requests.

Forum Speakers and Topics Update – A lengthy discussion took place about hosting a forum and determining speakers as well as topics that would be interesting to the residents and easy for them to connect with. Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Harsha agreed to work on this together with the assistance of Mrs. Schirmer. All agreed that a versatile topic would be Sustainable Yard Care. Plans will be made to secure a few speakers who could present about items of interest relating to this topic. The forum will take place one evening in the fall at the Library. Hopefully arrangements can be made to offer another program in the spring.

Somers High School Sustainable Energy Project Update – Mr. Maricic has made a few attempts to reach out to Somers High School physics teacher Chris Pietris regarding mentoring needs for their sustainable energy projects with unfortunately no response.

Composting Program at Somers Intermediate School Update – Mr. Stern emailed the Somers Intermediate School PTA President in an effort to discuss with them a Composting Program at the School. He never got a response, so reached out to the Principal, but unfortunately with no success.

NYSEG Task Force Update – Last month Mr. Zaberto attended a NYSEG Task Force meeting. A concerted effort is being made to work on resolving the issues that have occurred during the recent storms resulting in power outages. As part of the resolve, the Town would like the Energy Environment Committee to co-sponsor a community education series to teach the residents how to identify rogue trees and vegetation around power lines, as well as pole related issues. NYSEG will provide a tree removal representative as well as one that deals with infrastructure. The Town is also asking the Committee for sustainability of infrastructure ideas. It was also suggested that the Town solicit RFP's for tree work in an effort to help defray the cost of tree removal for the residents. Hopefully Mr. Zaberto will have an update next month as he was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program Update – The Town of Somers has been chosen as a recipient of NYSERDA's Clean Energies Communities 2018 GRANT Program in the amount of \$50,000 to purchase two electric vehicles. Further instruction will follow.

Energy Audit of Town Buildings and Facilities RFP Update – RFP's for an Energy Audit of Town buildings and facilities were received by Honeywell and Johnson Controls. A recommendation was made to the Town Board at the end of June. There has not been an update.

Community Composting and Recycling Facility Update – Ms. Vourakis is particularly interested in a Town composting station, using the one the Town of Bedford has as a model. Hopefully she will report back at the next meeting with some additional information as she was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

HeatSmart Westchester Program – Sustainable Westchester is sponsoring a HeatSmart Westchester Program and all agreed that the Town of Somers should submit an RFI. A memo will be sent to the Town Board making the request and providing the information.

Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program – The NYS DEC is offering a

Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program grant. Although it sounds interesting, the requirement is for a paid staff member. Unless they would agree to have the volunteers on the Committee handle the responsibilities, applying for this grant would not make sense.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, September 10th 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