

ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2019

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

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

Stacie Vourakis was absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Zaberto and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainable Yard Care Program at Somers Library Update – On March 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Somers Library Program Room, NYSEG's arborist Sam Miller spoke about their tree trimming policy and gave recommendations on planting trees and vegetation near the power lines. Maryanne Rivera owner of Landscape Concepts spoke about sustainable yard care with regard to the pros and cons of fall leaf mulching; fertilization for lawns; sustaining plantings; use of electric mowers and leaf blowers; and dealing with insect damage on plants. The presentations were excellent and most informative. Although there were not many in attendance, those that were, thoroughly enjoyed your offering and learned a great deal. Many thanks were extended to Mr. Zaberto in taking the lead on this event. Mrs. Schirmer sent thank you letters to both Mr. Miller and Mrs. Rivera. All agreed to do this annually in April in celebration of Earth Day. In the meantime, all are encouraged to note program topics that they think would be of interest to the residents.

NYSEG Task Force Update – The next NYSEG Task Force meeting will be on April 9th. There is definitely evidence that the reclosures put in place are working, lights

flicker preventing a total power outage. Talks are in process between the Public Service Commission and NYSEG to lower the tree trimming cycle from 5 years to 3 years.

Johnson Controls, Inc. Project Update – On February 5th, representatives from Johnson Controls, Inc. toured all the Town buildings to assess potential projects for energy savings. A report is forthcoming.

Highway Department Solar Project Update – Sun Blue Energy has completed the installation of a 30.66 kW solar energy system at the Highway garage. All were given the information needed to log in and monitor the progress if they so wish to do so.

Westchester Power 2019 Choice Aggregation Program Contract Renewal Update – At their March 7th Town Board meeting, a discussion and vote took place with regard to the Westchester Power 2019 Choice Aggregation Program Contract Renewal. The Town Board opted to choose and contract for 19 months for the Basic Supply electricity rate. All agreed that in an effort to educate the residents further it might make sense to have a small article in The Somers Record that folks do have the option to switch to the Green Supply rate. This information will also be put on the Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS

Program for Heritage Hills – Former Committee member Flo Brodley reached out to Mrs. Schirmer about the Energy Environment Committee doing a program at Heritage Hills for their residents. For years, Ms. Brodley represented the Heritage Hills community on the Committee and Mr. Zaberto would really appreciate it if Ms. Brodley could recommend a viable candidate to take her place. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to her to discuss this further.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 8th 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