

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, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were present: Don Bleasdale, Mike Scorrano and Rick Warren.

Councilman Richard Clinchy was also present.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Bleasdale and seconded by Mr. Warren to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

**BUSINESS**

**Climate Reality Project Westchester Chapter Green Initiatives Repository**

The Westchester Chapter of the Climate Reality Project approached Mrs. Schirmer about collecting data for Somers to be included in their Green Initiatives Repository that will be available to all communities upon completion in Westchester County. A survey had to be completed that included anything that the Town has done toward green initiatives.

**Call2Recycle**

The Town has been participating in a Call2Recycle battery take back program. This will be highlighted in the Committee's April newsletter.

**Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grant Award**

At their July 11, 2024 Town Board meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution to have the Supervisor execute the CSC Grant Application that is part of the 2025-2026 Climate Action Planning Institute of Westchester County (CAPI Westchester). CAPI Westchester is a regional climate action planning leadership program that is designed to lead participants through the development of a Local Government Operations GHG Inventory and Government Operations Climate Action Plan which are key priority

actions under the CSC program. The initiative will convene in the spring of 2025, will last for 16 months and is facilitated by the Hudson Valley Regional Council in partnership with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Each community will complete their own GOGHGI and develop a draft GOCAP using ICLEI developed software and tools designed for this purpose.

### **Solar Powered Town House Parking Lot Lights**

There is \$8,200 remaining from funds received from Sustainable Westchester's programs that the Committee assisted in supporting and promoting. There are two dark corners in the Town House parking lot that could benefit from lights. Research has been done as to what is available and the cost. Mrs. Schirmer received confirmation from the Town Clerk that as long as no more than the \$8,200 is spent, three different price quotes would need to accompany the purchase. Mr. Clinchy had advised that when the parking lot was repaved, wiring or a conduit was installed in the corner of the Town House side of the parking lot for a future light post. The Town contracted electricians did a site inspection and could not locate a conduit/wiring. All agreed that solar powered parking lot lights would be the best option. Mrs. Schirmer learned that the Parks and Rec Department installed such lighting in upper Reis and at the Reynolds House in Angle Fly Preserve. The installation of the pole and solar lighting attachment was done in-house for no more than \$500 per parking lot light. Mrs. Schirmer asked Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston if there was a need for anything solar powered in any of the parks that the \$8,200 could be used for. He will get back to her. In the meantime, arrangements will be made to purchase two poles and solar lighting attachments for the Town House parking lot corners. Mr. Scorrano suggested that there might be companies that could be consulted for this work. He will email information to Mrs. Schirmer.

### **Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar**

Mrs. Schirmer received an email from Sustainable Westchester informing her that funds are available again to start promoting their Community Solar program until March 7<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups are done directly with them on-line. This is an ideal way for residents to take advantage of the benefits of solar power if they can't or don't want to invest in the installation of solar panels. An email blast was sent out by the Town as well as the library and it was to be included in the Heritage Hills Newsletter. A total of 44 residents signed up in January and February. It was the hope that these sign-ups could be submitted as pints towards high impact actions, but NYSERDA has awarded all available funding for this round of the program. However, this would count towards Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification if the Town was interested in that. Mrs. Schirmer has reached out to her contact as to next steps.

### **Nine Acres Property in Shenorock**

As previously mentioned, Mr. Bleasdale discussed exploring whether grants were available to have a Brownfields assessment done on the Nine Acres property in Shenorock with the ultimate goal of securing a grant to have the property cleaned up with a pending use if any to be determined. Mr. Bleasdale reached out to Hudson Regional Valley Council's Carla Castillo in an attempt to be connected with Ashita Patel,

Brownfields State and Tribal Response Coordinator at EPA Region 2 who he met at a recent Hudson Valley Regional Council Conference. Ms. Patel is out on maternity leave and the window for Brownfield funds closed in November, but Ms. Castillo would like to meet with Mr. Bleasdale to talk about other funding that might be available as well as new opportunities for Brownfield funding. NYS DOS Revitalization Specialists met Susan Landfried and Amanda Wild met with Mrs. Schirmer via Zoom. Nine Acres is simply not a big enough project to qualify for Brownfield funds. They suggested researching the NYS DEC Environmental Restoration Program and to see what programs EPA might have. Mr. Bleasdale will follow up with the EPA.

### **Dual EV Charging Station**

As a result of funding received via Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar Campaign Tier 1, the Town received \$15,000 which will be used to install a new dual EV charging station in the Town House parking lot replacing the single existing one. RFP's were solicited and received. The project was awarded to Sun Blue Power. Mrs. Schirmer met with their installer and electrician on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Once the equipment arrives, arrangements will be made for the install which will take a day or two.

### **Additional EV Charging Stations in Town**

At the Town Board meeting in January, there was an item on the agenda to approve a proposal from Woodard and Curran for engineering services to install EV Charging Stations in four key locations in Town. Money secured from a CREST Grant will be used for these projects and the charging stations will be secured through the Westchester County contract. Since the Committee was unaware of this endeavor, an email was sent out to at least find out what the four key locations were. The response email that Mrs. Schirmer received from Steve Robbins of Wood and Curran on January 15<sup>th</sup> stated that back in early 2023, the Town applied for a CREST grant for EV charging installations at the Town House, Highway Department, and Reis Park, focusing on infrastructure for future fleet EV's. Budgetary information was provided to the State in support of the design and installation for those sites, using equipment quotes from a Westchester County Level 2 charger procurement contract that the Town can piggyback on. Mrs. Schirmer followed up with Mr. Robbins who met with her and Mr. Bleasdale via Zoom. The grant amount is \$100,000 and all agreed that there is really a need for EV's and then the addition of any EV Charging Stations if there is any money left over. An email was sent to both the Supervisor and Finance Director about rescoping the work.

### **EV Charger Outlets, Heat Pumps and Solar Panel Building Permits Issued**

In February, no permits were issued by the Building Department for EV charger outlets, heat pumps or solar panels.

### **NYS Association of Towns Convention**

Councilman Clinchy attended the NYS Association of Towns Convention held in New York City from February 16 to 19 as it is a very beneficial offering. He brought back some materials that might be of interest to the Committee.

**Memo to Reis Park Expansion Committee**

At their March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Town Board has an item on their agenda to approve going to bid for Phase 1 of the Reis Park Expansion project to include new pickleball courts that are lit, new lighting for the remaining tennis courts, a parking area, and temporary roadway connecting Reis Park to Plum Brook Road. A memo will be sent to the Reis Park Expansion Committee requesting use of solar lighting wherever possible in an effort to decrease the amount of electric used.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy Environment Committee

cc: Energy Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk