

ENERGY AND 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
June 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Councilman Richard Clinchy and resident Long Garrett were also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

BUSINESS

New Appointed Member

Last month, Mrs. Schirmer was delighted to announce that Flo Brodley sent her an email indicating that she wanted to be appointed to the Committee by the Town Board. A request was made to place this item on the agenda of the June 5th Town Board meeting and happily Ms. Brodley was appointed to the Committee. Welcome Flo!

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar New Campaign

Mrs. Schirmer received an email from Sustainable Westchester announcing a new campaign for Community Solar. The Town sent out an email blast on Monday. Hopefully enough residents will sign up resulting in points awarded that will be transferred into funds for the Town.

Somers High School Environmental Club Senior Scholarship 2026

Mrs. Schirmer reported last month that she reached out to the Somers High School Principal for the contact information of the staff member leading the Somers High School Environmental Club for future collaboration with the Club. That information was

received and arrangements will be made to chat with her in early September to see how the Club and the Committee may be able to collaborate on a project/workshop, etc. In addition, it was suggested by Mr. Bleasdale that a scholarship be awarded to a 2026 graduating senior who is a member of that club. Once school begins Ms. Brodley and Mr. Clinchy would like to visit with the Club members to get a better idea as to what they do.

Meeting with Millenium Strategies, LLC

Councilman Clinchy had announced that the Town hired a new grant writer, Millenium Strategies, LLC. Arrangements were made to meet with two of their representatives on June 4th. Unfortunately, Mr. Bleasdale ended up not being able to attend as a result of an unexpected business issue, but Mrs. Schirmer met with them in his place. Hopefully they will determine some grant opportunities that fall under the energy and environment umbrella, including an environmental assessment clean up proposal for Nine Acres in Shenorock.

Committee Name Change

At its inception, the Somers Energy Environment Committee was the Somers Energy Advisory Panel. Then it got changed to the Somers Energy and Environment Committee. Sometime later, it got changed to Somers Energy Environment Committee. Recently it was brought to Mrs. Schirmer's attention that it really should be the Somers Energy and Environment Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Bleasdale and seconded by Mr. Warren to put the "and" back into the name of the Committee. All were in favor. It was determined that the Town Board did have to pass a resolution to return the name of the Committee to Energy and Environment Committee which was done at their June 5th meeting.

EWASTE

The Supervisor of the Town of North Salem shared information about an EWASTE program they initiated thinking the Town of Somers might be interested in doing the same. The information was passed on to Mrs. Schirmer who contacted EWASTE. Before the Town can get apply to be a collection site, a conversation will have to take place with the Highway Superintendent to see if he can provide a covered facility that the wood pallets and gaylords can be placed in for collection of the EWASTE. If that step is positive, then the Town Board has to vote on it. If all is approved, a collection site registration number has to be secured from NYSDEC and then EWASTE can secure a contract with the Town of Somers.

Committee Newsletter

The next newsletter will be distributed in July. Suggestions for content include: upcoming events sponsored by the Committee; links to or summaries of pertinent applicable information such as all electric vehicles and understanding your electric bill; etc. Mr. Bleasdale is writing an article on the pros and cons of his electric vehicle.

Top Post Solar Powered Lighting for Town House Parking Lot Corners

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. 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. Scorrano has been most helpful in providing a quote for top post solar lights and the poles. Mrs. Schirmer will secure two other quotes as required and present the final proposal to the Historic Properties Board for their final approval. The Highway Department will install these lights. The hope is to complete this project in early fall.

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar for Low Income

Mrs. Schirmer received an email from Sustainable Westchester informing her that they were launching their new Tier 2 campaign for Community Solar for Low Income. An email blast was sent out by the Town at the end of April. Unfortunately, no one signed up for this campaign.

2023 CREST Grant - \$100,000 – EV's and EV Charging Stations

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 15th 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. Mrs. Schirmer reached out to Mr. Robbins who informed her on April 11th that a request was submitted to the State to change the scope of work to include two plug-in hybrid vehicles and an additional pair of chargers in the Town House parking lot. There has not been an update.

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. This process has not yet started.

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

In May, a permit was issued by the Building Department for two heat pumps and solar panels.

Upcoming Programs/Events

It is not too early to start thinking and planning for programs/events - Workshop in Conjunction with the Library; Earth Day Celebration 2026; and Repair Café.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk