

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
October 28, 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.

Resident Long Garrett was also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mrs. Brodley to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

BUSINESS

Celebrate Somers

Mr. Bleasdale and Mr. Warren manned the Energy and Environment Committee informational table at the Celebrate Somers event on Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Somers Towne Center. It was a great event and there were lots of visitors at the table, especially children. A lot of pins and pens were given out. Mrs. Schirmer will inventory what is left and purchase additional items for next year's outreach.

New Solar Energy Legislation

At their August 14, 2025 meeting, the Town Board initiated the SEQR process for new solar energy legislation. The use would be limited to schools and other institutions of higher learning located in the R-120 Zoning District only after application to the Town Board for a floating zone to be applied to the property. A prospective applicant will then be required to apply to the Planning Board for a special permit and site plan approval. A Public Hearing was set for October 9th.

EWASTE

The Supervisor of the Town of North Salem shared information about an EWASTE program they initiated and set up at their Highway Department thinking the Town of Somers might be interested in doing the same. The information was passed on to Mrs. Schirmer who contacted EWASTE. The Highway Department Superintendent visited the North Salem facility and it was determined that there is simply no space at the Highway Department to accommodate this program.

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar New Campaign

Mrs. Schirmer received an email from Sustainable Westchester announcing a new campaign for Community Solar that was supposed to end on July 31st but is still going on. As of the end of September, 70 new residents signed up for this campaign. The Town continues to send out email blasts about this campaign as Sustainable Westchester has extended its ending date. The total that sign-up will result in points awarded that will be transferred into funds for the Town.

Committee Newsletter

The next newsletter will be distributed in January. Mrs. Brodley is writing an article about the history of the Committee since its inception to present day.

Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST) Grant

At their meeting on July 10th, the Town Board approved spending the \$100,000 CREST Grant money received through Senator Harckham on two plug-in hybrid vehicles, one battery electric utility vehicle and battery powered tools for Parks and Recreation to be used for property maintenance.

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 started with Mr. Bleasdale and Mrs. Schirmer providing the requested information which to date was a copy of the NYSEG and Sueco Oil bills for each building for 2023 and 2024. Liz Sun of the Hudson Valley Regional Council is now in the process of organizing the data.

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

Collectively for June, July, August and September, the Building Department issued 3 permits for EV Charger Outlets; 14 for Heat Pumps; and 8 for Solar Panels.

Somers High School Environmental Club

Mrs. Schirmer was introduced to the staff member who oversees the Somers High School Environmental Club by the Somers High School Principal via email with the hopes of working together. Mrs. Schirmer has followed up three times with no response.

Repair Café

Mrs. Brodley thought it might be a good idea to offer a “mini” Repair Café in the Somers Library Program Room having up to four stations available by appointment only. All thought that was a great idea. Mrs. Schirmer will assist Mrs. Brodley with organizing this.

2026 Somers Earth Day Week of Celebrations

Mrs. Brodley thought rather than the Energy and Environment Committee sponsoring an event to celebrate Earth Day as it involves a lot of organizing and man power, the Committee reach out to other organizations in the community about hosting an event during the week of Earth Day. The Committee would sponsor an event on one of the Sundays during Earth Week at the Somers Town House. They would also create a flyer that included a calendar of the other events going on in Town. Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Schirmer will work on this endeavor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk