

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2025

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

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

Councilman Richard Clinchy and Resident Jill Gardner was also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mrs. Brodley to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

BUSINESS

Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) Membership

Mrs. Brodley wondered why the Town is not a member of the Household Material Recovery Facility in Valhalla. Councilman Clinchy will reach out to the Town Attorney.

Municipal Reduction and Recycling (MWRR) Grant for an Organic Recycling Yard Project

Mrs. Schirmer announced that the Town has applied for the Municipal Reduction and Recycling Grant for the Town to create an organic recycling yard at the Highway Department. She will continue to keep everyone updated.

2026 Budget Funding Request

Councilman Clinchy spoke with the Town Supervisor and Town Finance Director about adding a budget line in 2026 for the Energy and Environment Committee in the amount of \$1,000 to be used to promote Earth Day activities and to evaluate Town properties recycling efforts including a plan to improve them, but no limited to more clearly designated items for collection of recyclable materials. He was thanked for his

endeavors.

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar New Campaign

Mrs. Schirmer reported that Sustainable Westchester is still accepting sign-ups for their Community Solar Campaign and 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 and the total that sign-up at the end of the campaign 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. She has asked Mr. Bleasdale, Mr. Clinchy and Mr. Warren to give her any information they recall on the history of the Committee. Ms. Gardner offered to assist with designing the newsletters moving forward.

Ideas were shared about the newsletters in general – have a resident give a testimony on having solar panels; add a Do You Know section that includes “fun facts” about energy and the environment; and list out the number of permits issued by the Building Department for solar panels, heat pumps and EV chargers.

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. These items have not yet arrived.

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 October and November, the Building Department issued 2 permits for EV Charger Outlets; 5 for Heat Pumps; and 4 for Solar Panels.

Somers High School Environmental Club

Mrs. Schirmer was in communication with the Somers High School Environmental Club staff leader and put her in touch with Mrs. Brodley. Setting up an appointment for Mrs. Brodley to meet the Club members has been difficult due to the holidays, but hopeful something will be set up right after the new year.

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 or so available by appointment only. All thought that was a great idea. Some folks who can offer a specialty repair have been secured. Mrs. Brodley asked if anyone has a small appliance repair and knife sharpening contact to let her know. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to the Repair Café Coordinator in Hudson Valley as well.

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 will reach out to other organizations, schools, the library, etc. in the community about hosting an event during the week of Earth Day. The Committee will have a speaker on the first Sunday of the week of Earth Day at the Town House. It was suggested that someone from Recycling in Westchester be consulted. The Repair Café might be offered by the Committee the last Sunday of Earth Day week. The Committee would create a calendar of the other events available in Town. Ms. Gardner is willing to research via The Somers Record events offered and by who over the last couple of years.

Sustainable Westchester’s Community Choice Aggregate Program

Councilman Clinchy regrettably announced that Sustainable Westchester’s Community Choice Aggregate program is now defunct. It is not clear as to why.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk