

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2026

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

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

Residents Jill Gardner and Jennifer Barker Kuskoviski as well as Councilman Richard Clinchy were also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mrs. Brodley to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Proposed Local Laws Banning Use of Chemicals and Pesticides as Well as Gas Leaf Blowers

Both Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Schirmer received information about other communities in the area proposing local laws to ban the use of chemicals and pesticides as well as gas powered leaf blowers. All were asked to research further and the discussion will continue at the March meeting. In addition, Westchester County, DEC and DEP probably have some restrictions regarding these two items.

Earth Week Celebrations

Mrs. Brodley reported that plans are underway for Earth Week. The Committee will host a speaker and Repair Café on the Sundays during that week at the library. There is a list of artists that have expressed interest and their participation is being confirmed. Mrs. Brodley contacted the Heritage Hills Hikers; Ms. Gardner Lasdon and Muscote; and Mrs. Schirmer to the Somers Land Trust; and Mr. Garrett Baron & Loguidice about hosting an event during the week as well. An article was placed in the Heritage Hills Newsletter. Ms. Gardner provided a list of past events held in the Town and locally that will be reviewed for ideas. A calendar for the events being held during that week will be

created and distributed. Some of the Town money budgeted for the Committee will be used to pay for materials that any of the artists need. Ms. Gardner will start writing press releases for The Somers Record leading up to the week of events. Ms. Barker Kuskoviski will reach out to some speakers she has heard in the past and Whispering Pine. Mr. Clinchy will check with the Somers Schools to see if they have anything planned. It was also suggested that the NYSERDA and Sustainable Westchester websites be explored.

Somers High School Environmental Club

Mrs. Brodley sent an email to the teacher who leads the Somers High School Environmental Club in an effort to see if they might be willing to host an offering for the students during Earth Week.

Committee Newsletter

Mrs. Brodley is writing an article about the history of the Committee since its inception to present day for the next newsletter. All were asked for input and suggestions for other topics. This article won't be complete until after the Earth Week Celebration. Mr. Bleasdale is working on another article and Mrs. Schirmer some quick facts and information so a committee newsletter can be emailed soon.

Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) Membership

At the December meeting, Mrs. Brodley wondered why the Town is not a member of the Household Material Recovery Facility in Valhalla. Councilman Clinchy reported that only the communities in southern Westchester County could be members as they collect their own refuse. Since the communities in the northern part of the County have private carters, they are not eligible.

Town Buildings Recycling Efforts Plan for Improvement

\$500 has been placed in the 2026 budget under Energy and Environment in a line designated as recycling to be used to evaluate the Town buildings recycling efforts including a plan to improve them. He and Mr. Bleasdale will start an inventory soon and research local laws about recycling in Town buildings.

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

During December, the Building Department issued 3 permits for Heat Pumps and 2 for Solar Panels.

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar New Campaign

Sustainable Westchester continues to accept sign-ups for their Community Solar Campaign and as of the end of January, 85 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.

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

At their meeting on July 10, 2025, 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. As a result of the change made regarding the use of these funds, on December 23rd, the Supervisor had to re-sign the documents for the State and we await final approval.

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.

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

The Town will be applying for the Municipal Reduction and Recycling Grant for the Town to create an organic recycling yard at the Highway Department and is working with the Highway Superintendent.

NYS department of State's Brownfield Opportunity Area Program

In the beginning of January, Mr. Bleasdale, Mrs. Schirmer and the Supervisor met with the Sofia Ohrynowicz of Millenium Strategies regarding a grant to have an assessment done of the Town-owned Nine Acres property in Shenorock. The NYS Department of State's Brownfield Opportunity Area Program is a viable option and should reopen in May 2026, with an expected application deadline of July 31st. The plan is to apply for this grant when it reopens in May and the requirements will include a work plan, budget, letters of support (and documentation of additional community engagement), and a resolution. Ms. Ohrynowicz will write the grant and the Committee will assist in seeing it to fruition with the Town if it is granted.

Outreach

Mr. Bleasdale said that it would be nice to have a display board when outreach is done highlighting the accomplishments of Committee. That information can be collected from Mrs. Brodley's article about the history of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk