

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**  
**March 10, 2026**

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.

Long Garrett was absent.

Resident Jill Gardner and 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 February 10, 2026 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

**Earth Week Celebrations**

Mrs. Brodley reported that plans are moving along nicely for Earth Week Celebrations. The Repair Café will be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mrs. Brodley met with the Library Director in the Program Room at the Library where the event will be held and plans to meet with the artisans next week to coordinate their needs. Ms. Barker Kuskoviski arranged for some in-person presentations and a webinar followed by a bird watching walk. Mrs. Brodley arranged for two hikes, one at Angle Fly Preserve and the other at Rhinoceros Creek Reservation led by the Hikers and Walkers of Heritage Hills. Mrs. Schirmer arranged for a Somers Land Trust presentation and the Somers Partners in Prevention Medication Take Back Day. Ms. Gardner has drafted an 11" by 17" flyer that will be reviewed and discussed with Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Schirmer in a Zoom meeting this week or next. Work continues on trying to collect information of other Earth Day/Arbor Day events happening in Town to be added to the flyer. Help by all Committee members will be needed to distribute flyers for posting and physically attending the presentations to represent the Committee. All will be informed of coverage and needs. Mrs. Brodley had an article about The Repair Café placed in

the Heritage Hills Newsletter and Mrs. Schirmer reached out to two different folks at The Somers Record.

### **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. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up letting her know that the calendar will be finalized soon.

### **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.

### **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. Mr. Clinchy and Mr. Bleasdale will start an inventory in two weeks and research local laws about recycling in Town buildings.

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

During February, the Building Department issued 4 permits for Heat Pumps, 1 for an Electric Car Charger and 2 for Solar Panels.

### **Association of Towns Conference in NYC**

Both Councilman Clinchy and Mr. Bleasdale attended the annual Association of Towns Conference in NYC. The Town Clerk attended as well. Information collected was reviewed and discussed. Councilman Clinchy has documents he gathered at the Conference that he will share with the Town Board at their Work Session on Thursday.

### **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.

### **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 February, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee  
Town Board  
Town Clerk