

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Telephone
(914) 277-5582
Fax
(914) 277-3790

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2026

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

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

Mike Scorrano was absent.

Residents Jennifer Barker Kuskoviski and Jill Gardner were also present.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mrs. Brodley to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Since the Town was designated a Tree City, the Somers Open Space Committee had been acting as the Tree Board and hosting a tree planting on Arbor Day. For a variety of reasons, the Somers Open Space Committee is no longer acting in this capacity. The Town learned that a Tree Board is not necessarily required but to continue to be a Tree City must have an Arbor Day event each year. The Somers Energy and Environment Committee graciously agreed to sponsor an Arbor Day activity. This year they will follow suit with planting a redbud in Bailey Park on either side of the water trough. The tree will be purchased at Katonah Nursery. The Parks staff will pick it up and dig the hole. The event will be held on Friday, April 24th, Arbor Day at 10 a.m. All Committee members are asked to be in attendance if they can.

Earth Week Calendar

Earlier today, Mrs. Brodley had name tags printed for the artisans and the assistants who are participating in the Repair Café. She thanked Ms. Gardner for designing the

name tags. They look great. Eight artisans will be offering their services for the Repair Café on Sunday. Set up will take place on Saturday afternoon, including the hanging of signs. Ms. Brodley hung up many flyers around Town and/or made arrangements for them to be hung up. Lunch will be provided to the artisans and assistance and there will be a table of snacks for the attendees. Mrs. Schirmer thanked Mrs. Brodley for her tireless efforts in planning the Repair Café and Ms. Gardner for creating the flyer, for which she has received many compliments and the name tags.

Mrs. Schirmer has coordinated posting other community events during Earth Week on the calendar and thanked Ms. Barker Kuskoviski for arranging for a variety of other presentations as well as Mr. Garrett for securing Barton & LoGuidice for providing a program. Mr. Bleasdale, Mr. Garrett, Ms. Barker Kuskoviski and Mr. Warren will take the lead for some the Committee hosted presentations, and were thanked for their time and willingness to assist.

All are looking forward to great success for Earth Week!

Somers High School Environmental Club

Mrs. Schirmer was pleased to announce that during Earth Week, the Somers High School Environmental Club will be hosting a fair during community lunch enabling the students to plant a seedling, "Chalk the Front Walk" with environmental messages, and participate in a Class Wars Recycling Drive of bottles and cans.

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. 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 and research local laws about recycling in Town buildings.

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

During March, the Building Department issued 4 permits for Heat Pumps, and none for Electric Car Chargers and Solar Panels.

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 the Town continues to send out email blasts about this campaign. 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 reported that the DEC is reviewing the workplan and they anticipate that it will be completed in late Spring. Once the workplan is approved, Ms. Sun will be reaching out to the Town with a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the municipality and Westchester County. Once the MOUs are signed, the County will sign the contract with DEC and the program can officially begin. It is the hope to have the MOUs for the Town to review this summer and kick off the cohort meetings in the fall. They will resume data collection for the GHG inventory while they work on getting under contract.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk