

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
May 12, 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.

Town Councilman Richard Clinchy was present.

Residents Jennifer Barker Kuskoviski, Jill Gardner and Annie Gullen were also present.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Brodley and seconded by Mr. Bleasdale to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Earth Week

The events/programs hosted by the Energy and Environment Committee for Earth Week were quite a success, especially the Repair Café. Thanks were extended to all who arranged for a speaker program or event by Mr. Bleasdale. There was a webinar offered that attracted 19 attendees, however the in-person speaker programs were not well attended. It was suggested that perhaps next year they be offered via Zoom or a combination of in-person with the option to Zoom into the program. Ms. Barker Kuskoviski has a video of Jeff Seidman's presentation that she will share with everyone. Next year any in-person offerings should be taped. The Somers Record did an excellent article in the centerfold including pictures of the Repair Café.

Committee Newsletter

Mrs. Brodley and Mrs. Schirmer created a newsletter that highlighted the events/programs hosted by the Energy and Environment Committee during Earth Week. It was email blasted by the Town today and is posted on the Town website.

Town Buildings Recycling Efforts Plan for Improvement

Mr. Clinchy and Mr. Bleasdale conducted an inventory of recycling efforts in the Town-owned buildings. Some are doing it well and others need improvement and will be assisted. Blue bins for recycling need to be ordered for some of the buildings. It is important that once a final plan is in place that the employees be educated as to what is expected moving forward.

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

During April, the Building Department issued 2 permits for Heat Pumps, and none for Electric Car Chargers and three for Solar Panels.

Proposed Partial Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

A draft of a memo to the Town Board proposing a partial ban on gas powered leaf blowers was prepared, reviewed and discussed. All agreed to request a discussion with the Town Board regarding this proposal.

Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar Campaign

Sustainable Westchester has ended their Community Solar Campaign for NYSEG customers. Somers enrolled 85 new households and ranked as the second highest municipality for participation.

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. On April 24th, the grant disbursement agreement was signed by the Supervisor and is awaiting the Town Attorney's signature.

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.

Keep Somers Beautiful

Keep Somers Beautiful Chair Annie Gullen attended the meeting. It is her hope that programs/events can be done in conjunction with the Committee. In the meantime, she has concerns about how recycling is being handled. More research will be done and recycling in Somers will be a new item added to the Energy and Environment Committee agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 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