

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Telephone
(914) 277-5582

Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

DON BLEASDALE
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2026

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

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

Residents Elisa Bremner, Jill Gardner and Annie Gullen were also present.

Mrs. Schirmer was happy to announce that Mrs. Barker Kuskovski was appointed to the Committee by the Town Board at their meeting on June 4th. Congratulations!

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Brodley and seconded by Mr. Warren to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Fall Repair Café

In an effort to keep the momentum going, Ms. Brodley has made arrangements to hold a Repair Café in the fall on Sunday, October 4th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Somers Library Program Room. The library will co-sponsor this event by offering recyclable crafts for kids at the event. Ms. Brodley has already reached out to the artisans who participated in the Repair Café in April and has gotten some commitments for the fall. If anyone has any contacts in Somers that may have a skill that can be included please let Ms. Brodley know. She will also put an article in the Heritage Hills newsletter about the need for artisans. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to the Parks and Recreation Department about reserving the pavilion in Reis Park in case there are artisans that can handle larger projects.

Committee Newsletter

The next newsletter will include the history of the Committee prepared by Ms. Brodley.

Other ideas and content are welcomed. The newsletter will be 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 were ordered for some of the buildings. Ten were placed in the library and 4 in Van Tassell. There are still some that have to be distributed. Labels will be added to the existing cans in Reis Park to alert users as to the appropriate cans to use.

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

During May, the Building Department issued 1 permit for Heat Pumps, and 1 for Electric Car Chargers and three for Solar Panels.

Proposed Partial Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

A memo was sent to the Town Board proposing a partial ban on gas powered leaf blowers. The Committee was invited to attend the Town Board Work Session on June 4th. Mr. Garrett attended to represent the Committee along with Open Space Committee Chair Michael Barnhart who touched on most of the items. Mr. Garrett was able to add some additional information. The Town Board thanked them for coming to the meeting. Some were disappointed that a further commitment wasn't made. As this is an important topic, all agreed that there needs to be another request at some point of the Town Board to deal with this issue and educating the community is important. This will be discussed again to come up with a plan.

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 signed by the Town Attorney. The Town is now waiting to receive the funds.

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. Mrs. Schirmer was informed that the Town is not registered as a Climate Smart Community, yet we have been involved in their programs. This will be researched further.

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

At some point as scheduled time allows, 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.

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. It was indicated that 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.

Tomorrow, Mr. Bleasdale, Mrs. Schirmer and the Town Supervisor will be meeting again with Sofia Ohrynowicz of Millenium Strategies again to discuss this further. The plan is to apply for this grant 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.

Recycling Research

Mr. Bleasdale and Councilman Clinchy were asked to reach out to the Town buildings with offices about how they dispose of their recyclables. At the Town House there is a dumpster for recyclables and a dumpster for garbage. To take this one step further, Mrs. Gullen is concerned about the fact that the cleaning of what is being recycled is not always followed. In addition, she is concerned about what happens at the WIN Waste facility in Stamford, Connecticut and the facility in Valhalla. She will start by having a conversation with Councilman Clinchy.

Earth Week Debriefing

Ms. Gardner thinks there should be a debriefing of what was offered during Earth Week, with the exception of the Repair Café which Mrs. Brodley will handle. All were asked to

email their comments to Mrs. Schirmer and a Zoom meeting to discuss the feedback further will be held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Energy and Environment Committee

cc: Energy and Environment Committee
Town Board
Town Clerk