

GREENER HOPKINTON

MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 6:30 PM, Hopkinton Town Library – Local History Room

-Present: Brian Bickford, Lori Aubertin, Corinne Lajoie, Don Lane, Liz Corrigan, Bethann Murphy, Cass Mellen, Janet Ward, Mary Leadbeater, Susan Covert, Brian Bickford

-Minutes of April 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

-Liz and Bethann were thanked for their work on the eye-catching and informative Greener Hopkinton display at the Hopkinton Library.

-Janet shared information about the Greener Hopkinton monthly e-newsletter which has recently received funding through the Recycling Committee for which the e-newsletter will provide promotional support. The e-newsletter editors Risa Evans [RisaE11@aol.com] and Diane Hastings [d77hastings@yahoo.com] have requested that pertinent information be sent to them. Diane and Risa have also asked that the Greener Hopkinton website be upgraded so that the e-newsletter can include links to information on our site. Bethann will check with Chris Lawless about his developing expertise in this regard, and will follow up with Lori who will talk with a high school student currently engaged in website design. Janet will talk with Sandy at the Town Clerk's office regarding the present Greener Hopkinton website.

-As Caroline Durr was unable to attend tonight's meeting, Janet reminded members that Caroline is seeking assistance in developing Eco-House Parties. Anyone interested in helping Caroline should contact her as soon as possible – 746-5989 or email: rbloch@post.harvard.edu.

-Brian reported that the Energy Audit was progressing, but noted that there are still gaps in the data necessary to complete the audit. Don agreed to assist Brian in setting up a meeting with Don Houston and John Boatwright to complete the gathering of all critical information. Janet requested that an effort be made to complete the Audit as quickly as possible so that Greener Hopkinton can arrange a meeting to include recommendations from the Jordan Institute to the Board of Selectmen on essential energy saving measures which the town could undertake based on the Energy Audit.

-Bethann asked Don if there was money available to continue energy saving renovations to the Town Hall. The Committee was informed that money was available and that Don Houston could provide information on the amount of money saved because of recent energy-saving renovations. More information on this will be gathered: Susan will speak with Jim O'Brien; Mary will contact Chris Lawless. The Committee looks forward to the Jordan Institute's recommendations for energy-saving measures at the Library as well, once the Energy Audit results are completed.

-Susan reported on her discussion concerning the removal of Styrofoam trays from Hopkinton school lunchrooms. Basically, students still use these trays in addition to the use of some plastic trays. Corinne noted that education is still needed for both students and lunch room staff on why the use of re-useable trays makes better environmental sense. Corinne, Susan and Cass [and Will, if he is available] will meet with David Luneau and other school board members to discuss eliminating Styrofoam trays from the school lunch rooms.

-Corinne reported on the excellent efforts (huge posters, flyers, announcements by teachers, etc.) made to promote Bike/Walk to school/work day tomorrow (May 16). Fact shared: 1 billion

gallons of gas would be saved if everyone walked to work/school once every two weeks...and everyone who walked would be healthier. It was suggested that a tally of miles walked by students multiplied by 2.5 lbs of carbon dioxide be compiled to show how this effort helped to protect our environment. This information could be published in our e-newsletter.

-Bethann shared news of an excellent outreach effort made by the energy committee and PTO of Rye, NH. Janet will check with our PTO and Bethann will contact the Rye Energy Committee to see if Hopkinton can replicate this project. Don will discuss this effort with his son Mark who has friends in Rye.

-The Committee approved the sending of a letter of support to the Safe Routes to School project to help them to gain approval of their recently submitted proposal. Our letter of support is contingent on satisfactory information regarding flashing signals included in the project. Bethann will check on these and report to Janet.

-Bethann recommended that we investigate raising real estate tax credits for energy saving renovations (e.g. solar panels, geo-thermal, wind power). Mary will check on Warner's tax credits. Bethann will check with Jack on other NH tax credits. Once research is completed, Greener Hopkinton will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen about Hopkinton's tax credit incentives.

-Mary reported that NERC (New England Recycling) will hold informational meetings on Tuesday, June 3. An evening meeting at 7 at the Slusser Center is open to the public. Susan will publicize this event through her email lists.

Mary also reported that the Recycling Committee will address the Board of Selectmen on June 23 about their upcoming Pay As You Throw initiative.

Mary also noted that a visit to Canterbury resident Alex Lee's Clothesline Project provided serious energy-saving reasons to avoid the clothes dryer and re-learn how to use a clothes line and clothespins.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 6:30 PM, HOPKINTON TOWN LIBRARY