

Greener Hopkinton Meeting Minutes - 06/19/2008

GREENER HOPKINTON

MINUTES

Thursday, June 19, 2008, Hopkinton Town Library – Local History Room

Present: Diane Hastings, Risa Evans, Bethann McCarthy, Mary Leadbeater, Jack Ruderman, Janet Ward, Susan Covert, jim O'Brien

-The Minutes of May 15 were approved with one correction: Alex Lee is not from Canterbury. He is a resident of Concord.

-The Committee reviewed the letter of support sent to Natalie Duval in support of her Safe Routes to School grant proposal. Bethann reported that the lights described in this proposal are solar powered and will be used only at specific intervals during school days.

-The Committee reviewed the membership list and term of service for GH members. Mary Leadbeater requested that the Committee be informed of when each term begins.

-Janet reported that we have about 50 canvas bags left to sell at the Contoocook Farmers' Market. Mary volunteered to set up a sales booth this Saturday (June 21). Carol Cleary is interested in selling bags during the balance of the season.

The Committee decided that we should order 100 more turtle design bags in order to be prepared for the Eco-Fair and holiday sales.

-Diane and Risa reported that they are ready with news items and lay-out designs for the emailing of the GH e-newsletter, but need assistance addressing technical issues associated with this project. Jim volunteered to alert Chris Lawless of their request for

help, as Chris has skills in this area. Janet will arrange a meeting with Chris, Risa, Diane, and artists Liz and Jay Spahr, as well as Andrew Corrigan who has offered to assist in this effort, during the week of June 23 to complete preparation for the publication of our first e-newsletter.

Diane and Risa asked that GH MEMBERS SEND NEWS ITEMS DIRECTLY TO THEM FOR INCLUSION IN THE E-NEWSLETTER.

-Susan reported that the High School has established a policy to use only re-useable trays, with cardboard trays available only as emergency back-up. The Committee extended its sincere thanks to Susan for her perseverance in bringing this effort to a successful conclusion. Janet volunteered to call Concord Monitor reporter Chelsea Conaboy to suggest an article about this decision to use only re-useable trays in the hope that other schools will follow this example.

-Janet read a letter from Caroline Durr describing her effort to organize Eco-House Parties. As no volunteers were able to commit the time necessary to assist in this effort, Caroline has withdrawn from this project for the time being. She is available to help if a volunteer steps forward to take up this project. Janet suggested that we advertise in the e-newsletter for volunteers who wish to host parties and have GH representatives attend to explain GH initiatives. This recommendation, and others which might be forthcoming, will be considered at a future meeting.

-Jack reported that he has nearly completed the Energy Audit. He believes it will be done within a few weeks. Jim noted that the Selectmen would appreciate a report on the audit and steps which might be taken as a result. Jack will consult with Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute and contact the Board so that he and Dick can be placed on the agenda of a July Selectmen's meeting.

Jack recommended that folks interested in a home energy audit look at the REPA website which features recommendations of energy auditors.

-Bethann reported on her research with respect to tax incentives to support energy savings and renewable energy production. Towns offer a variety of incentives. Hopkinton offers a rebate only on solar energy. Jim suggested that the Carbon Coalition may have information on this topic from other NH towns. Jack explained that money for rebates on renewables will come from the cap and trade renewal alternative compliance fund, a result of the recently approved REGGI initiative. There is also a federal credit at present, although this may not be renewed after 2008.

-Bethann noted that UNH is sponsoring a free energy conference this Friday and Saturday. [Check with Bethann for details.]

-Jim reported that the Board of Selectmen would like GH to oversee a Community Garden project using town-owned land. Jim kindly offered to chair a GH Task Force to develop this initiative. Janet is to email notice of the opportunity to serve on this task force to participants in our Strategic Planning Session.

-ECO-FAIR: A number of exhibitors have accepted our invitations to participate in this year's Fair which is scheduled for Sunday, September 14. These include new participants such as Zetland Homes, Abigail's Bakery of Weare, the Concord Coop, and NH Rideshare.

-The Committee agreed to participate as an exhibitor in the Little Nature Museum's Nature Fest on Sept. 6 & 7. Janet volunteered to set up a booth on one of the two days. Anyone wishing to serve for the second day is asked to contact Janet.

-Our next meeting is THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, AT 6:30 PM AT THE LIBRARY.

Happy Summer!