

Greener Hopkinton Minutes
April 15, 2009

In attendance: Bethann McCarthy, Mary Leadbeater, Susan Covert, Janet Ward, Diane Hastings, Risa Evans, Jack Ruderman and Jim O'Brien. Rachel Goldwasser and Chris Ashlin also attended. The meeting was held in the Library's Conference Room at 6:30.

The Jim Ramanek presentation at the library was discussed. All agreed that he did an excellent job. The presentation was very informative. People of all levels learned something. We discussed a follow-up next spring might be a good idea.

The Local Energy Committee Conference was discussed. It is being held June 20, at the Grappone Center in Concord. Members who may attend include Bethann McCarthy and Janet Ward. The cost for two to attend is \$45.00.

The dates of the BioMass Conference in Nashua were announced (April 29, 30).

Jack Ruderman discussed grants available to Hopkinton. It was decided that a sub-committee of members would be formed to determine the course of action for town buildings to reduce energy usage, and to look into applying for State Funds or Economic Stimulus Funds. (The former seems more appropriate for our purposes.) We will also see if we can get somebody from the School Board and Library Trustees or Director to meet with us to discuss these issues.

A new logo idea was presented for review, designed by Jay Spahr. Jay said she welcomes input, she is not very sure what type of design we have in mind. The logo was beautifully designed, but we agreed that we need something simpler, that can be easily reproduced on letter head, etc, at a small scale. Janet will discuss our ideas with Jay.

We still need to find new members for the committee. We have three open seats. Rachel Wasserman and Chris Ashlin, who attended the meeting, seemed interested in joining. They would be great addition(s) to the committee. They will think about it.

Ideas for Earth Day were discussed. It was agreed that there is very little time for planning. The discussion then turned to October 24, for 350.org activities. The idea of 350 churches throughout the State ringing their bells on this day was suggested. (Maybe at 3:50 pm) Janet and Bethann agreed to look into spreading this idea -- perhaps on the Local energy Committee wiki or e-newsletter.

Plans for the Community Garden were discussed. We may be able to use property "donated for use" by one or two land-owners in town. Both locations are flat land, easily accessible. Amy O'Brien will take the lead on getting the application forms out and processed. Janet is taking the lead on working out details with potential land owners.

Discussion of canvas bag sales. We decided we will try and sell the bags we have, and that will be the end of this project. Mary Leadbeater volunteered to sell the bags at the Contoocook Farmer's Market.

Schools - Brief discussion about the possible formation of an Environmental Club at the High School. Bethann spoke with a member of the Peace Club, who is very interested in taking on environmental projects. GH agreed that a separate environmental club at the school would be ideal. This may attract additional students who are not necessarily involved in other activities, and could focus on environmental issues. If the Env Club does not materialize, the Peace Club may be a good resource for assisting with environmental initiatives at the High School, and perhaps the lower grades as well. We discussed getting youth involved in GH meetings again.

Lori Aubertin submitted an e-mail update of things going on in the schools. Lots of activities planned for Earth Week. Lori reported that the styrofoam trays are still being used occasionally at Maple Street School. (Susan suggested that this issue be brought up with the new superintendent, Steve Chamberlin. We feel it's important to not use these at all.) Lori also agreed with GH concerns about the use of plastic ware, which is used at the schools. Lori will speak with Rob Nadeau at the high school, to make more of a concerted effort to get the recycling going stronger.

Bethann McCarthy, Diane Hastings and Janet Ward worked on the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund grant application at the end of the meeting.