

GREENER HOPKINTON

MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2009, 6:30 PM, Community Room, Hopkinton Town Library

Present: Bethann McCarthy, Mary Leadbeater, Janet Ward, Susan Covert, Lori Aubertin

-Janet reported on the Open Space Committee's efforts to conserve the Bohanan Farm. Members present asked Janet to request GH members to indicate support for a Greener Hopkinton request asking the Board of Selectmen to vote for a Special Town Meeting on this conservation effort.

-The Minutes of the June 25, 2009 Meeting were approved.

-Community Garden: Janet reported that Amy O'Brien, the Garden administrator, had asked gardeners to contact her with advice on improving the Garden for the next growing season. Bill Chapin told Janet that he would like to till the Garden as early in the fall as possible in order to plant winter rye which Bill will kindly donate. Bill also recommended larger plots (20' x 20'). Lori Aubertin volunteered to contact the Grazianos about cow manure to be used for fertilizer. Janet volunteered to contact Jerry Babson to inquire about his "hilling" technique. Also, Janet will check with master gardener Jim Ramanek of Warner about having him visit the Garden to offer advice and about presenting a "Basic Gardening" talk in early March.

-GH Logo: At our next GH meeting Bethann will circulate an improved design for consideration to go along with our motto "Building a Sustainable Community."

-Mary reported that with the sale of 3 more canvas bags we will have paid off our Rotary Club loan. There are about 30 bags left to be sold.

-350.org effort: Bethann reported that October 25 is the target date for this consciousness-raising effort with bell ringing encouraged from Oct. 18 – 25. Janet was asked to contact town churches. Bethann will work on creating a contact list. Lori asked for information for circulation in the schools.

-Energy Subcommittee Update: Bethann reported that the Portfolio Manager will be updated. Energy audit still needs to be done for four town buildings, but there is no money to do this at present. Brian Bickford learned that the town and schools have already done the PSNH Smart Start lighting program. It was noted that the gym lights take a very long time to become bright enough. Susan recommended that Steve Chamberlin be contacted to discuss this. Saving energy on street lighting is another focus which the subcommittee is exploring. Dave Luneau reported to the subcommittee that the school energy rating was good (85 or above).

-Bethann noted that the NH Sustainable Energy Association will sponsor a Green Buildings Open House tour on October 3. The possibility of a tour of local energy-efficient homes will be explored by Bethann.

-Sustainable Community Speaker Series candidates will be contacted: PAREI of Plymouth (Fee: \$175) – Bethann; Patrick Miller: Hawk Talk at the High School – Janet; Don Shumway, talk in early November – Bethann; Clay Mitchell – Janet; Jim Ramenek, early March – Janet. Before scheduling speakers, GH should check on Town Meeting and Rotary Meet the Candidates dates.

-NatureFest: Janet asked for volunteers to represent GH at the Little Nature Museum's NatureFest on Sept. 12/13 from 11 am to 5 PM. [Interested members are asked to contact Janet (746-4991) for more information.]

-Enewsletter Update: Bethann will meet with Diane and Risa to determine how to share editorial and publishing duties associated with the GH newsletter among a wider circle of volunteers. Bethann suggested a survey to learn about effectiveness of enewsletter. [Contact Bethann if you would like to help out.]

-New Business: Janet suggested that GH consider more active encouragement of the use of clotheslines. Janet will check with Project Laundry List for concrete suggestions on how to do this in our community.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 17, at 6:30 PM. **NOTE NEW LOCATION: SLUSSER CENTER.** (No meeting room available on that date at Library.)