

Greener Hopkinton Minutes
January 22, 2009

Greener Hopkinton met in the Community Room of the Library at 6:30 pm.

In attendance: Jim O'Brien, Susan Covert, Diane Hastings, Mary Leadbeater, Bethann McCarthy

Safe Routes to School – Discussed the Town's application, put together by Natalie Duval and voted to write a letter of support to the State in support of the application. This is for the February round of grants. The total amount is expected to be \$220,000 +/- . Much of the requested money would be for two sidewalk improvement projects in Contoocook.

Sustainable Speaker Series – Made plans for the Burack's presentation this coming Sunday. Also discussed additional speakers for the future, including Jack Ruderman, Cameron Wake, Barry Rock and others. Jim will speak to Jack R to see if he would like to do this. We thought it would be a good idea to plan an organic gardening discussion in the coming months.

Portfolio Manager Results – We agreed that we should find a way to inform the Town about the results of the Portfolio Manager survey. Mentioned including it in a future e-newsletter. Also discussed that it might be a good idea to inform towns people of the measure the library is taking to reduce energy consumption.

Library Energy Update – Bethann informed the committee about the measures that the library is taking to become more energy efficient, including turning the heat down from about 72 to 67 degrees (60 degrees at night). A contractor performed a thermographic survey to detect where insulation is lacking. A vapor barrier will be installed in the attic.

Energy Committee Legislation – Jim O'Brien updated us on the status of this bill in the legislature. Susan Covert, Jack Ruderman and Jim were all in attendance at the hearing, and Jim got the impression that the legislation would probably pass the committee.

Community Garden Initiative – Mary Leadbeater informed us that she had spoken with Ginny Hayes about the soil in front of the library, as this is one spot being considered for a Community Garden. Ginny said that we should review the Charette for the property, as some the Charette discussed the appropriate uses for different areas. Jim will look for the Charette at the Town offices.

Jim also informed the Committee that the Carbon Coalition is going to have a workshop in the coming weeks for Energy Committees in Plymouth.

Jim mentioned that he has seen draft regulations for outdoor wood burners which the Town might want to consider adopting. He will present them to the Planning Board.

Mary informed us that there are going to be two Recycling Informational Forums: March 3 and Feb 17. On Feb 18, the Selectmen are having a hearing on Pay Per Bag (SMART program). We will try and get this information into the e-newsletter in the next few days.