

GREENER HOPKINTON

MINUTES

Thursday, October 15, 2009, Hopkinton Town Library, 6:30 PM

Present: Bethann McCarthy, Will Hastings, Mary Leadbeater, Jack Ruderman, Janet Ward, Chris Asli

Guests: Judy Fayre & Gail Fayre

-Because of the demands of other commitments, Susan Covert has notified GH that she must withdraw from membership. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Susan for all that she has contributed to the work of this committee and very best wishes on her new endeavors.

-Minutes of September 17 in process

-Guest Judy Fayre, a member of the Recycling Committee, offered a timely article on a "green" family Halloween.. Judy has volunteered to submit articles featuring sustainable practices for families for future issues of GH's e-newsletter.

Judy and Gail suggested that GH examine *Transition Town*, a book which provides guidance on how to prepare communities for a post-fossil fuel future. A training based on this book was recently offered in Vermont. (Sue Hemingway of Warner also attended this workshop.) Judy and Gail also noted that Milford's UU minister and his wife attended Finndhar, a long-standing sustainable community in Scotland.

Judy and Gail have recently become members of the Warner Area Time Bank, a unique online community of folks who trade time (e.g., babysitting, gardening, shoveling snow, etc.) with one another. This becomes a kind of local economy that builds community.

GH agreed to carefully consider the Fayres' suggestions for future action.

-Bethann will prepare a list of tasks/volunteers needed for the 350.org Climate Action that will take place on October 24 and will email a request for assistance. The bell ringing begins at 1 PM at St. Andrew's Church.

-The Committee reviewed the cash available from our recent grant of \$1000 to determine the amount available for investment in soil amendments for the Community Garden's second season. Our Constant Contact fee is \$235 (with a possible additional fee of \$200 if usage is substantially increased). The fee for our PAREI speaker (Talk on Solar Energy Basics) scheduled for this winter is \$175. Mary volunteered to consult with Jim Ramanek to determine the most effective method to enrich our garden soil. Mary will report back to the committee at our November meeting.

-Canvas Bag Sales: Mary reported that the Hopkinton Rotary Club has been repaid for their initial loan; we have \$155 profit; the five remaining bags will be provided to Dimond Hill Farm for sale.

-Chris reported on the Library's latest actions with regard to energy usage: The Library has had infrared and blower door tests; is working on cost-effective steps (air barrier, retrofit of current insulation) to increase their energy savings hopefully by 10-15%. Next steps (e.g., foam in ceiling, other more costly steps) attendant on block grants from EECBG (requires going through town administration). The program is awaiting appointment of an administrator prior to issuance of RFPs.

-Jack Ruderman reported that Hopkinton has been granted an award from the Municipal Energy Association which means that Hopkinton will receive an inventory of energy use, a possible audit of one building, an assessment of subdivision requirements, street lighting and vehicles.

-Will Hastings reported that he is making progress on forming an environmental club at the high school and that he will make an appointment with Superintendent Steve Chamberlin to discuss the subject of providing healthier food which generates less waste in the school cafeterias. Mary suggested that Will invite Judy Fayre to accompany him for this discussion as she has expertise in this area. Will also reported that plastic utensils are still in use in the cafeteria, though there is no more Styrofoam.

-A discussion of ways to increase GH membership resulted in a suggestion to advertise our need for new members to those who attended the original Strategic Planning Session. Janet will send out a notice with an invitation to those interested to attend our next meeting.

Bethann suggested that perhaps GH should concentrate on fewer projects with more consistent follow-up. Chris proposed quarterly meetings with more frequent subcommittee meetings. These recommendations and others will be discussed further at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:30 PM IN THE LIBRARY