

GREENER HOPKINTON

Thursday, March 19, 2009

MINUTES

Present: Bethann McCarthy, Lori Aubertin, Mary Leadbeater, Risa Evans, Diane Hastings, Susan Covert, Janet Ward

-Minutes of Feb. 20 meeting were approved.

-Suggestions for Lori Aubertin for Earth Day at Maple Street School included the “Worm Lady” – Joan O’Connor from Henniker (Grade 4); Jack Ruderman – “Energy for the Future” (Grades 5 & 6); “Earth, the Movie” – a Disney film; Barbara Fales of DES outreach. The group discussed raising environmental awareness at the Jr/Sr HS by starting an “Enviro Club” which would feature a Jim Merkle-type Planning Day to help it establish its mission and activities. Lori will discuss this possibility with Tim Stokes, Scott Siemens and Bob Woolner.

-Susan Covert noted that efforts continue to persuade the newly-convened School Board to remove plastic ware and styrofoam from the cafeteria.

-Janet reported that Elaine Loft is checking with Jim O’Brien and the Library about using the fields in front of the Library for a Community Garden. Diane suggested other potential locations such as using some allocated area of the Bohanans’ fields or conservation land behind the police station. Mary will check with the Conservation Commission.

-The Committee noted that we should check with Jack Ruderman with regard to our new status should HB 189 pass. (This is the bill pertaining to the establishment of energy commissions.)

-The Committee agreed that the schools should be a key focus of GH in the future. Also, it was decided that GH should help to get out the vote in support of PAYT when the Recycling Committee presents PAYT to the community in the future.

-Bethann reminded the Committee that the E-Newsletter will need to be funded again in the fall. Jim O’Brien will be asked to have Steve Clough once again provide funds from the Recycling Revolving Fund.

-In preparation for our April 5 speaker series event featuring organic gardener Jim Ramanek, committee members will be asked to provide refreshments. Some committee members will donate glasses for the Library to be used in place of paper cups for this and future events.

-Bethann agreed to check with Jim O'Brien and Jack Rudernman about grants for weatherization projects in town.

-Bethann reported that the NH Sustainable Energy Association will sponsor a Sustainability Tour this fall. Details will be made available.

-Canvas bags will be sold by Mary and others at the Farmers' Market and at the GH Speaker Series.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 in the Community Room at the Library.