

Minutes - Greener Hopkinton April Meeting
Thursday April 20, 2011

In attendance: Judy Fayre, Denis Goddard, Mary Leadbeater, Nancy Jackson-Reno, Bethann McCarthy

Denis Goddard was welcomed to the Committee as the Selectmen's Rep

Taryn Fisher, on behalf of the Little Nature Museum, presented information and conceptual plan on the Museum's thoughts on potential uses of the Houston Barn on town property adjacent to the library. The purpose of the presentation was to present ideas for future use of the building by various organizations in the area. A green, perhaps LEED certified, building is imagined on the spot. They are just trying to get people to think about uses of the building, which they think feel could be a beautiful addition to the community and could serve various purposes.

Judy Fayre volunteered to serve as the treasurer for the committee, which involves keeping track of grants, etc., such as the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, which GH has received for the past two years.

The library is going to be closed on Thursday nights in the future. We discussed the possibility of meeting at the Slusser Center instead. Mary Leadbeater will contact the Slusser Center to find out info on availability of rooms.

The NEGEF grant has a balance of \$778. Most of this will probably be used to purchase weatherization materials for Hopkinton residents. Thoughts are to have volunteers weatherize homes of people who are eligible for fuel assistance. Denis G will speak to the selectmen about this, insurance is a concern. Bethann will send Denis some sample waiver forms that were used for StayWarmNH and are being used by other NH towns. Once this program is approved by the selectmen, Judy Fayre will contact Marilyn, with the Human Services Dept, about candidate home owners.

Applications for a new NEGEF grant are due September 15. Ideas for funding for next year include: money for the newsletter, money for additional weatherization projects, a display board for GH to set up at various town events and money for speakers.

The Community Garden has about 20 people signed up for this year. The current balance in the CG fund is \$273. (It's unclear whether this includes any of the new funds from fees this year, Bethann thought it did not.) Risa Evans is going to contact Bill Chapin on the possibility of having a garden shed on site. The size of the shed, to be donated by Eric Leadbeater should Bill approve it, is 4 x 8 feet.

The possibility of creating a web site was discussed. We agreed a Facebook page might be more appropriate, as they are easier to set up than a website.

Wall-E is showing at the library on Thursday, April 28. This is a joint venture of GH and the Library. The library is doing the bulk of the work on that day, GH helped with publicity.

Bethann reported that the SDES Group has finished an energy model of the Town Highway building, including the proposed new addition to be built by the Town employees. The plan is to incorporate high quality insulation and make the addition weather tight. The selectmen seem very interested in making this happen. We hope to have a representative from the Peregrine Group (through the ETAP program) meet with the selectmen to discuss insulation procedures for the addition and a plan to improve the existing building (which is the 3rd highest energy intensive building in Town, based on square footage and on energy use.)