

Greener Hopkinton
May 16, 2012
Minutes
DRAFT

In attendance: Nancy Jackson-Reno
Mary Leadbeater
Bethann McCarthy
Barbara Fales

Bethann welcomed Barbara Fales to the committee. Barbara moved back to Hopkinton in the fall. She brings a lot of experience to the committee, having worked on environmental and energy issues for several years.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Community Garden Update - The Community Garden is to be tilled in the coming days. Bill Chapin is doing the tilling this year. Amy O'Brien will then lay out the plots. We discussed the possibility of mulching the walkways, planting clover on them or hiring somebody to weed whack. Barbara mentioned that she may have access to used storage sheds. We have to discuss whether Bill wants a storage shed on the plot. If she is able to get one, it may take a flat bed trailer to move it.

Bethann updated the group on the meeting with the Town administrator (Neal Cass), the new Public Works Superintendent (John Thayer), Jack Ruderman and Bethann, last Friday morning at Town offices. The meeting went well. The Energy Action Plan that was developed by Peregrine Group was discussed. It was decided that we should set some goals for town buildings, and meet every few months to review progress and revise goals as necessary. The updating of the EPA Portfolio Manager database was also discussed. Neal agreed that it would be beneficial to find a way to update this on a defined schedule. Bethann will contact Neal to schedule a follow-up meeting.

Municipal policy on Energy Efficiency/Waste Reduction - the group has been discussing this for the last few meetings. Bethann has also mentioned it to the Town Administrator. We are researching policy wording for this. Barbara will contact Chris Skoglund at DES to see if he has any suggestions. Bethann is going to look at American Planning Association's sustainable communities toolkit. Barbara also mentioned that other Towns, such as Hanover or Durham, may have a policy that we could review.

Greener Hopkinton Action Plan. We may develop an action plan, starting in the fall. All present agreed that defining goals and action items would help us stay on track, review our progress, etc. It was suggested that we may want to do this in conjunction with the Recycling Committee, since there is some overlap in our projects. We will think about doing this in the fall, after speaking with RC members and other GH members, to decide whether we want to do it jointly as separately.

E-Communications. Bethann has started setting up a GH blog. The format was shown to the committee. The plan is to have a link to the blog from the GH page on the Town's website, if possible.

Fund Raising. Last month we discussed possibly selling stainless steel water bottles with GH logo on them as a fund raiser. We would need some money up front to do this. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethann McCarthy