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Recycling Committee Minutes - 03/11/2008

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Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes March 11, 2008

Members present: Debbie Augustine, David Lancaster, Chris Lawless, Sally Embley, Mary Jo MacGowan, Bob Lapree, Katherine Mitchell, Mary Leadbeater

The January and February 2008 meeting minutes were accepted as amended.

Discussion focused on five topics:

1. PAYT and the Landfill Committee (L.C.)

- The committee discussed the role of the L.C. in decisions regarding issues such as PAYT.
- The question was raised whether the L.C. can exert influence over the manner in which Hopkinton taxpayers choose to fund their trash disposal costs.
- The next meeting of the L.C. is scheduled for 4/03/08 at 7p.m. at the Slusser Senior Center.

2. In-town Recycling Location

- The committee discussed circulating a citizens' petition at the Hopkinton Town Meeting on Saturday, asking citizens if they support establishing an in-town recycling drop-off location on Public Works Road. It would be open and staffed on Saturdays from 8a.m. to 5p.m.
- It would be open to Webster citizens who choose to use it.
- The Webster representatives may look into a similar site in Webster, but the need is not as pressing, as most Webster residents go to the Recycling/Transfer Station with their trash.

3. Town Websites

- The committee discussed the need to update the recycling page so that it accurately reflects what can be recycled.
- C. Lawless agreed to speak with the appropriate town employees regarding updating the site.
- M. MacGowan would like Webster to be able to link to the updated recycling page if that can be accomplished prior to Webster's new site coming online.
- The compost bin sale will be added to the website.

4. Increasing Recycling

A. Community Outreach

- C. Lawless suggested contacting the Women's Club to ask if it could include a recycling brochure in the welcome basket provided to new community members. The committee also suggested that the Women's Club could use Greener Hopkinton's canvas bags in lieu of baskets.
- The Webster representatives will discuss writing an article addressing the financial benefits of recycling.

B. Schools

- The committee discussed initiating a contest among the schools. Ideas included a "Pounds per Pupil" recycling challenge.
- The continued use of Styrofoam trays was discussed. The committee members would like to see a more environmentally sensitive tray used.
- The Webster representatives will check to see what their schools are doing.
- B. Lapree will contact Mr. Carrozza at Harold Martin School to inquire about the level of recycling that occurs at HMS.
- The committee discussed developing an awareness project, whereby classes would accumulate their recyclables for a predetermined period of time, thus raising awareness of our level of waste and the need to recycle.

5. Recruitment

- Hopkinton members briefly discussed the need to recruit new members to the R.C.
- Some names were considered, but the group decided to wait until the new BOS was in place and the role of the L.C. could be evaluated.

Town of Hopkinton, 330 Main Street, Hopkinton, NH 03229
Phone: (603) 746-3170

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