

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**River House**  
**7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 2, 2014**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 by Vice-chairman Chad Peterson

Regular members present: Martha Hansen, Nancy Pincus, Chad Peterson, Steve Baklik

Regular members absent: Ken Simon, Charlene Riling

Guest: Laura McDonnell

**2. Secretary's Report - Approval of January 8, 2014 minutes**

Chad Peterson moved, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to accept the minutes as presented. All present voted in favor, motion passed.

**3. Committee Membership – update**

The Green Committee is authorized to have 11 regular members and 2 alternates.

**4. Member's Reports**

- a) **Community Food Bank Garden update & grant:** Nancy Pincus applied for a \$500 grant from Kitchen Gardeners International. The grant was awarded and Nancy has received the grant package which contains \$100 worth of non-GMO Ark Institute seeds, a \$100 gift certificate to Gardeners Supply Co., and a \$300 check. The fence around the garden needs to be replaced this year. It was damaged by snow over the winter- the posts have bent and the lightweight deer fencing has ripped. Nancy will look into getting new metal fence posts and better deer netting.
- b) **Newsletter:** The next newsletter (Spring 2014) will contain updates on solar power rebates, etc., an article on global warming, and one on local food and farmer's markets, among other items. Please email Martha if you would like to write an article or have a suggestion for a newsletter article.
- c) **Farmers Market Table:** We will be there again this year. We need to spread the staffing out so that the responsibility is shared. Laura McDonnell will help out also. Steve brought a very nice sign for the Green Committee's table.
- d) **Clean energy, etc.:** Laura McDonnell is working with 3 Degrees, Inc. and CT's Community Energy program to encourage municipalities to reduce municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018 and to promote energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy programs in its community. By doing this the Town can earn points which can be used to obtain a 1 kilowatt clean energy system, and Bright Idea Grants that can be used for energy saving projects. The Town is already accruing the points but they cannot be used towards clean energy awards unless the Town signs a Clean Energy Communities Pledge, agreeing to participate in trying to reduce energy consumption. There is no penalty if the Town signs the pledge but fails to reduce energy consumption.

**Motion:** Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to authorize the Green Committee to endorse the pledge and recommend that the town sign it. All present voted in favor, motion passed.

The pledge will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for a vote.

**5. Audience of Citizens – Laura McDonnell - See Clean Energy above.**

**6. General Discussion**

- a) **Green Committee web & Facebook pages:** It would be nice to have our newsletter archives available on our town web page. We could then provide a link to them from our Facebook page. Martha will pursue this.

- b) **Projects for 2014:** Food Bank Garden – it looks like the garden will not have to move this year, the Middle School project has not been scheduled for a referendum yet. We will be setting up recycling at Music on the River and may be able to work with together with Laura to “Green” the event. We will have a table at the Farmer’s Market again.

**Meeting Schedule:** next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

### **7. Adjournment**

Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. All present voted in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary