

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam
Regular Meeting
River House
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:10 by Chairman Ken Simon
The Green Committee will hold regular meetings on the first Wednesday of the month until further notice.

A. Attendance:

Regular members present: Martha Hansen, Nancy Pincus, Ken Simon, Chad Peterson (by telephone), Jean Breuler
Regular members absent: Yvonne Rubin, Terri Smith, Sue Staehly

2. Secretary's Report

Approval of 12-1-2011 minutes

The minutes were discussed

Chad Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented, Nancy Pincus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Committee Membership – update

The Green Committee is authorized to have 11 regular members and 2 alternates. No more than 2/3 of the members can be from one political party. There is currently space for 3 regular members and 2 alternates.

Yvonne Rubin will be resigning from the Committee, making the total number of members 7.

There was a discussion about activities to raise the profile of the Green Committee, which would help to recruit more members. Making the Food Bank Garden more visible would help, Martha Hansen will get pricing for a banner to put up on the fence. It may be possible to use the electric sign in front of the Middle School, too.

The Committee could sponsor a film or other event, perhaps for Earth Day. The discussion will continue at the next meeting. Ken Simon mentioned Bryan Welch's book "Beautiful and Abundant: Building the World We Want" as an inspiring book with a positive vision of a future we can create together.

4. Member's Reports

A. Community Food Bank Garden update

Nancy Pincus is planning for this year's Food Bank Garden. She would like to expand the garden to 34' x 28', double its present size. The Food Bank now serves 190 families, up from 103 families when garden was started.

Nancy will be trying some different vegetable varieties this year, and would like to plant "the three sisters" – corn, pole beans and squash – as well as peppers, muskmelons, snow peas, pumpkins, watermelons and tomatoes. Wood ash and chicken manure are on the garden wish list this year.

B. Grass Roots Environment Fund Grant/Reusable Bag Project update

There are still bags left, and the Grist Mill and Nathan Hale Pharmacy have plenty.

C. Newsletter –Next edition

Ken Simon is editing the February/March newsletter. An article about expanding the Food Bank Garden will be added.

D. Grants and Grant Project possibilities –

Tabled until April

5. Audience of Citizens – no public participation

6. General Discussion

A. Green Committee web page

The Web page will be updated this month with flyers, newsletters, and the Committee's mission statement.

B. Winter Events magazine article, deadline March 18

Nancy Pincus has agreed to write something for the Events magazine. She will send the draft to Martha and Ken, who will edit it.

C. "Victory Garden" awareness, utilization & implementation (planting, canning, food storage)

Tabled until April

D. Single Stream Recycling, zero-waste

The Committee decided to report in each Newsletter about the total tonnage of recycling that is processed, and how much the town makes on it, vs the cost of trash disposal. The Committee plans to find out how much is recycled (number of tons per capita) compared to other towns in Connecticut. Perhaps banners or signs could be posted at the transfer station stating what can be recycled. The Trash Museum in Hartford was mentioned also.

It may be possible to get the Girl and Boy Scouts involved in promoting recycling in town. A flyer could be sent home with the school children.

Jean Breuler will check into plastic bottle recycling at the schools.

Martha Hansen will contact Rich Toolan and Pete Govert about East Haddam's trash and recycling statistics.

7. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

8. Adjournment

Martha made a motion, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary