

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam  
Regular Meeting  
River House  
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 6, 2011**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:07 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: Nancy Pincus, Ken Simon, Chad Peterson, Jean Breuler, Terri Smith  
Regular members absent: Yvonne Rubin, Sue Staehly, Martha Hansen

**2. Secretary's Report**

**Approval of March 2, 2011 minutes**

The March 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 mention of recruiting Patti DeRiso. Interested attendees at this meeting were David Rapoza and Robert Estep.

There was further discussion about activities to raise the profile of the Green Committee, which would help to recruit more members. The Food Bank Garden will be enlarged and there was discussion of having a sod raising and rototilling party on 5/14 and 5/15/2011. There was also a discussion that the food bank has moved to the grange and the need for a banner to bring notice.

**4. Member's Reports**

**A. Community Food Bank Garden update**

Nancy Pincus is planning for this year's Food Bank Garden. She has been given permission 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 and is still growing.

Nancy is looking for a supply of manure and wood ash for soil enhancement in the garden. Some suggestions were made to enlist the help of the daisy scouts and FAA students for tilling and planting of this year's garden.

**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. There was a discussion amongst members for any ideas that may help sell the remaining bags.

**C. Newsletter –Next edition**

Ken Simon and Chad Peterson will be creating a Facebook page with a link from the town's webpage. Suggestions for the next newsletter were: mention the preparations necessary for this year's garden, the possibility of a future greenhouse, call for more volunteers, promote Facebook, put together Burpee's Vegetable Bill of Rights, recycling – where do we stand state-wide, what can we do as a town to maximize recycling efforts.

**D. Grants and Grant Project possibilities –**

There was a discussion of efforts towards expanding awareness in town of the Green Committee by possibly obtaining a grant to set up a small greenhouse as an extension of the Community Garden, research via Center for Foundations for topics and issues of interest.

**5. Audience of Citizens – no public participation**

**6. General Discussion**

**A. Green Committee web page**

Ken Simon and Chad Peterson will begin work on creating a Facebook link from the town's webpage. This will make it easier to raise citizen awareness of the Green Committee, make it easier to add pictures and to communicate with other green groups and initiatives.

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

Tabled.

**D. Single Stream Recycling, zero-waste**

Jean Breuler shared information on educational efforts around the country, in particular November as National Recycle Month where educational projects are undertaken involving towns, schools, business and local trash/recycle companies for the purpose of helping young citizens learn about ways they can help the environment, such as recycling bottle caps.

Terri Smith as a volunteer at the concession stand at town school sports events spoke very passionately about spearheading project to better recycle bottles, cans, etc. generated by the concession. Ideas about having more visible and convenient containers to assist in this effort were discussed. Any monies made by collecting cans and bottles would be donated back to the team.

**7. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.**

**8. Adjournment**

Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Breuler