

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam
Regular Meeting
River House
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Green Committee was called to order at 7:05 P.M. 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: Ken Simon (U), Martha Hansen (D), Sue Staehly (D), Chad Peterson (Gr), Yvonne Rubin (D), Nancy Pincus (U)

Regular members absent: Jon Russell(R), Roger McNelly(R), Angela Spradlin (D)

Alternate members absent: Allen Compagno (D)

Guests: Mike Harris

2. Secretary's Report

Approval of 12-2-09 minutes

The minutes of 12-2-2009 were reviewed.

MOTION: Sue Staehly made a motion, seconded by Chad Peterson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Committee Membership – update

Green Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen that Mike Harris be appointed to the Green Committee as an Alternate. Martha Hansen will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Chris Wenz (D) has submitted a Green Committee application and is on the Green Committee meeting notification list.

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 2 regular members and one alternate.

4. Member's Reports

A. Community Food Bank Garden Proposal, Rockfall Grant – status

The Grant award notification will be in mid-February 2010.

B. Grass Roots Environment Fund Grant/Reusable Bag Project – Contest Designs

Yvonne Rubin reported that the Nathan Hale Pharmacy and the Grist Mill would like to purchase 500 bags each in exchange for having their businesses listed on the bags. The first order was planned to be 1,000 so the committee would like to order some extra to have for sale or to give away. Green Committee promotional material could be put inside the bags, like a flyer or something about green energy. The grant was for \$1,000, the bags cost 98 cents each if 1,000 are ordered. The pharmacy and the Grist Mill will pay \$1 per bag, so the initial cost of the first 1,000 bags is covered. If 1,500 bags are ordered, then there will be some left for the Green Committee to distribute or sell. There was a discussion about how to get people to remember to use their bags once they have them. Banners, flags or signs could be displayed outside businesses as a way to remind people to use the bags.

MOTION: A motion was made by Sue Staehly, seconded by Chad Peterson, to authorize Yvonne Rubin to spend an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to order reusable bags. Motion carried unanimously.

Yvonne Rubin displayed the bag designs created by the High School Art students. The designs were discussed and the top four were selected:

1. The first place winner was a tall flower with the words "One Earth, One Town, One Bag"
2. Second place was a Four-Petaled flower
3. Tied for third place were a light bulb with leaves, and a triangular design with a motto

MOTION: Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, to award \$50 to the first place winner, \$25 to the second place winner, and \$10 each to the third place winners. Motion carried unanimously.

The bags will be blue with a white design and white printing. “East Haddam Green Committee” will be printed on the bag, along with advertising and the logo. The price of 98 cents per bag was for printing on one side only. Yvonne will check the price for 2-sided printing. Nancy Pincus will check to see if “The Blue Bag” is trademarked.

C. Newsletter & Response– update

The Green Committee Newsletter emailed in November received a response from the Staehly’s of Staehly’s Tree Farm. Chris Staehly wrote a letter about his position regarding live vs. artificial trees. He did not think that the Green Committee should recommend an artificial tree as a “green choice” and listed the benefits of live trees, which include the preservation of wildlife habitat and open space, and the contribution tree farms make to the rural character of the town. East Haddam’s rural character is highly valued by its residents, according to a 2009 survey done by the Green Committee.

The Green Committee Newsletter did not recommend one type of tree over another, but said that a live tree, potted tree, or artificial tree (which is reused year after year) could be a “green choice” for Christmas. The Green Committee supports local business and agriculture and appreciates Mr. Staehly’s position.

The next newsletter will be sent out in the next few weeks.

D. East Haddam Events Magazine article – update

Ken Simon has submitted the article, which will be published this month. The article will highlight the showing of the film documentary “Suburbia – the Good Life in CT?” at the Grange on January 31, at 4pm.

E. Suburbia – The Good Life in CT? film showing January 31 at the Grange

Ken Simon’s documentary “Suburbia – the Good Life in CT?” will be shown on January 31, at 4 pm at the Grange. It is free to the public and is sponsored by the Green Committee. Light refreshments will be served. It will be advertised in the Hartford Courant and the Reminder. Chad Peterson will set up a Facebook page for the event. Martha Hansen will make a sandwich-board sign advertising the film. Mike Harris will speak about the March 6 Summit event and tickets will be for sale.

F. Mike Harris – Earth Charter March Event “The Long Emergency and What it Means for Your Community” Gelston House, Saturday March 6, 4-8 pm. James Howard Kunstler speaker, Transition Towns, etc. panel

Tickets, which are \$20 each, are available online at www.earthcharterct.org or by mailing a check made out to “ECCoLoV” to ECCoLoV, PO Box 32, Moodus, CT 06469. James Kunstler will speak about how Peak Oil could affect local community life. There will be a panel discussion after his lecture. Representatives from the Council of New Urbanists, Patrick Pinell (Goodspeed village housing architect) and local Transition Towns groups are being contacted to participate. Hors d’oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash bar.

This event will be cosponsored by ECCoLoV, the Green Committee, and The Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is providing the design and printing for the posters and tickets. The Green Committee voted to be a sponsor of the event at the December meeting and there was a discussion about the contribution that the Committee could make to the event. Members could sell tickets and help to staff the event. Mike Harris, President of ECCoLoV, supported this idea and asked members to purchase the tickets up front and then resell them. Ken Simon offered to ask Mark Walter if the town would donate \$500 to purchase 25 tickets to be distributed to members of the Green Committee, the Economic Development Committee, the town Selectmen, and (possibly) interested Selectmen in area towns. The event is intended to be a break-even, educational event to stimulate discussion and new ideas regarding economic development in East Haddam and Connecticut in general, taking into consideration the much higher gasoline and energy costs and scarcity likely in the future.

MOTION: Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, to authorize Ken Simon to request a donation of \$500 from the town to support the March 6 event. The motion carried, with 5 votes in favor, 1 abstention.

Mike Harris has contacted Marissa Calvo, a graphic designer, to create a 6-8 page program for the event. Ads will be sold to finance the program. A full page color ad is projected to cost \$275, a full page black & white ad will cost about \$180, a half page black & white ad will cost \$100. As a co-sponsor, the Green Committee will get a full-page article in the

program. There was a discussion about the Green Committee also purchasing a half page, black & white ad to promote the reusable bags. The \$100 would come out of the \$1000 bag grant.

MOTION: Yvonne Rubin made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, to authorize the Green Committee to spend \$100 of the bag grant funds to purchase a half page, black & white ad promoting the reusable bags in the March 6 event program. The motion carried, with 5 votes in favor, 1 abstention.

5. Audience of Citizens - None

6. General Discussion

A. EHGC Blog & Website

Tabled until the February meeting.

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

Tabled until the February meeting.

C. Projects to help town residents become more self reliant and sustainable

Tabled until the February meeting.

D. Green Committee logo/motto: East Haddam Green Committee – Building Lifeboats

Tabled until the February meeting.

E. Transition Towns

Tabled until the February meeting.

9. Other - None

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

10. Adjournment

Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary