

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam
Regular Meeting
River House
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Green Committee was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Vice- Chairman Chad Peterson.

The Green Committee will hold regular meetings on the first Wednesday of the month until further notice.

A. Attendance:

Regular members present: Martha Hansen (D), Sue Staehly (D), Chad Peterson (Gr), Yvonne Rubin (D), Nancy Pincus (U), Ken Simon attended via conference call.

Alternate members present: Mike Harris (U)

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

Alternate members absent: Alan Compagno (D)

Guests: Meg Dedman

2. Secretary's Report

Approval of 1-6-2010 and 1-2-2010 minutes

The minutes of 1-6-2010 were reviewed.

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

The minutes of 1-20-2010 were reviewed.

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

3. Committee Membership – update

Martha Hansen is waiting for official confirmation of Mike Harris's appointment as an Alternate to the Green Committee.

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 4 regular members.

There was a discussion about how to remove "non-active" members from the committee. Several members have not attended meetings for more than six months and have not responded to requests to resign from the committee.

MOTION: Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, that a member may be removed from the committee by a majority vote of committee members if he or she has not attended meetings or responded to communication for a minimum of six months. All present voted in favor.

MOTION: Sue Staehly made a motion, seconded by Chad Peterson, to remove Jon Russell, Angela Spradlin, and Alan Compagno from the Green Committee, as they have not attended meetings or responded to communication for six months or more. All present voted in favor.

4. Member's Reports

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

Ken Simon has heard from the Rockfall Grant people (informally) and it looks like the award may be \$250 instead of \$500. Official notification will be in mid-February.

Nancy Pincus would like to request a seed donation from Burpee and needs to send it on Town letterhead stationery. She will contact Linda Zemienieski at town hall about the proper procedure for sending a letter on Town stationery. Nancy also reported that she has staked out the new Food Bank Garden location and needs to have the town call to have the utilities marked. Then she will be able to have the new area tilled and horse manure brought in from Ray of Light Farm.

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

The winners have been selected and confirmed. Prize money will be awarded in the next few weeks.

- First place: a tall flower with the words “One Earth, One Town, One Bag” “East Haddam”
- Second place: a four-petaled flower with the slogan “East Haddam, Save a Bag, Go Green”
- Tied for third place: a light bulb with leaves, and a triangular design with a motto

The bags will be blue and white, and have “Blue-Bag it!” at the top, the first place design and slogan in the middle, and “Brought to you by the East Haddam Green Committee, Grist Mill Market, and Nathan Hale Pharmacy” at the bottom. The Grist Mill Market and the Nathan Hale Pharmacy have both agreed to purchase 500 bags for \$1 each in exchange for having their names listed on the bag. Yvonne will order the bags after both the Grist Mill Market and Nathan Hale Pharmacy have approved the final design.

C. Newsletter – January & February 2010 edition

The January & February edition of the Green Committee Newsletter was emailed to about 140 people. There is a new feature in the newsletter – “Area Green Events” where local “green” events will be listed. There was a discussion about the definition of a “green” event and if listings should be limited to non-profits. The mission of the Green Committee is to research, study, educate, and make recommendations for the following purposes:

1. To create healthy and sustainable living environments;
2. To protect, restore, and maintain ecological integrity;
3. To encourage and support the use of clean energy, to conserve energy and natural resources, and use them efficiently;
4. To balance social, economic, and environmental concerns in decision-making

Members generally agreed that either non-profit or for-profit events could be compatible with this mission. Event listings can be emailed to members for approval before being published in the newsletter.

The next newsletter (March & April) will be emailed in early March.

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

About 30 people attended the film showing on January 31 at the Grange. A lively discussion about the future of the suburbs followed. Several new people signed up to receive the Green Committee’s email newsletter. Mike Harris spoke about the March 6 event “The Long Emergency and What it Means for Your Community”.

Members agreed that showing a film and/or sponsoring an event is a good way to raise awareness of the Green Committee and fulfill its mission. Nancy Pincus recommended the documentary film “A Chemical Reaction” about a town that banned the use of all chemical pesticides and herbicides. The ban led to the province of Quebec banning the products and local Home Depots stopped selling them. The town was sued by the chemical companies.

E. 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

Mike Harris distributed “Long Emergency” posters to members. Several ads have been sold in the program; the ad deadline is February 14. The Green Committee, The Sanctuary and ECCoLoV will all have a one-page write-up in the program. The Green Committee is also purchasing an ad in the program to promote the East Haddam reusable Blue-Bags. Ken Simon spoke to Mark Walters about the town purchasing 25 tickets (for \$500) tickets to distribute to Green Committee members and others. Mark agreed to present the request to the Board of Selectmen. Ken will contact Mark and find out what happened.

After the Long Emergency lecture on how Peak Oil could affect local community life, there will be a panel discussion about “Responding to the Long Emergency”. Some panel participants will be Patrick Pinnell (architect of the new Goodspeed housing), Hans Lohse (architect & builder), Roger Smith (from Clean Water Action), representatives from a Transition Towns group and possibly either Maureen Hart or poet Marilyn Nelson. Publicity for the event was discussed. Mike will email the press release and Kunstler bio to Ken Simon, who will contact NPR and John Jankowski (of Where We Live). Radio station WESU will also be publicizing the event. Martha Hansen will ask Marlene Buchanan to contact Melissa Pionzio of the Hartford Courant I-Towns supplement.

Note: 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.

February 14, 2-4- pm End of Suburbia showing at the Grange.

ECCoLoV will show the film “End of Suburbia” on February 14, from 2-4 pm at the Grange.

5. Audience of Citizens -

Meg Dedman attended the meeting.

6. General Discussion

A. EHGC Blog & Website

The new town website is scheduled to be ready this spring. Martha Hansen will email the website template that the Registrar of Voters has been asked to fill out to Chad Peterson.

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

This could be a good topic for the newsletter. East Haddam’s Youth and Family Services Dept. oversees the Food Bank, so all donations are tax deductible. There was a discussion about collecting extra seeds and plants to donate to the Food Bank in case any of their clients would like to plant a garden.

Nancy Pincus mentioned the John Scheepers seed company of Bantam, CT. as a “local” seed provider.

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

There was a discussion about the Green Committee sponsoring an event to honor Earth Day on April 22. Perhaps a seed, bulb and/or plant exchange, or a demonstration about composting or companion planting could be held at the Grange. Sue will find out about Grange availability in April. Members are asked to think of possible Earth Day activities and email ideas to other members. The event should be in the next newsletter, which is scheduled to go out in early March.

D. Green Committee logo/motto:

Mike Harris suggested that the committee hold a special meeting to come up with a strategic theme/visioning/motto for the Green Committee that would distill the focus of the original mission (see item 4C above). The meeting could be held on Sunday, March 14, from 10am to 1pm at the River House. Mike offered to facilitate the meeting. Sue will check on availability of the River House.

E. Transition Towns

Tabled until next month.

9. Other - None

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

10. Adjournment

Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Sue Staehly, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. All present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary