

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam
Regular Meeting
River House
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Green Committee was called to order at 7:20 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, Martha Hansen, Yvonne Rubin, Nancy Pincus

Regular members absent: Chad Peterson, Sue Staehly

Alternate members absent: Mike Harris

Guest: Jean Breuler

2. Secretary's Report

Approval of 5-5-2010 minutes

The minutes of 5-5-2010 were reviewed.

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

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 5 regular members and 1 alternate.

Jean Breuler attended the meeting and may be interested in serving on the committee.

4. Member's Reports

A. Community Food Bank Garden update

Nancy Pincus reported that the garden has been planted, with the help of local Girl Scouts. The fence has been installed. The garden has been expanded this year, with help from a \$250 grant from the Rockfall Foundation. East Haddam Today, the online newspaper located at <http://easthaddam.htnp.com>, will be publishing an article on the garden.

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

Yvonne Rubin reported that the bags have been delivered and are for sale at the Grist Mill Market, Nathan Hale Pharmacy, and the gift shop at Gillette Castle. The bags, which cost 97 cents each, were sold to the businesses for \$1 each, which covered the cost plus shipping. The money will be put back into the bag fund and used to purchase more bags. There are less than 100 bags left; there is \$500 in the budget. The bags may be sold at the Lions Club Auction on July 10. Patti Deschaine, publisher of the Fishwrapper, is interested in publishing an article on the bags, Martha Hansen will contact her.

C. Newsletter –June/July 2010 edition

Martha Hansen will work on the June/July edition of the newsletter

5. Audience of Citizens

Jean Brueler expressed her concern about the use of plastic water bottles and other disposables, and the hazards of wood smoke. There are more wood stoves being used now, as people are trying to save money on the cost of heat, and it is increasing air pollution. Smoke pollution is also caused by outside burning of brush piles, etc. Wood smoke is high in particulates and can cause lung damage.

6. General Discussion

A. New Town website, Green Committee page

The new East Haddam town website is up and running, the address is www.easthaddam.org. The Green Committee minutes are posted there.

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

There was a brief discussion about getting a larger sign or banner for the community garden.

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

There was a brief discussion about sponsoring a town wide tag sale, or swap meet, to encourage people to recycle and reuse items, rather than throw them away.

D. Green Committee logo/motto:

Tabled.

E. Transition Towns –Transition 1.0 short film

The Earth Charter of the Lower Valley (ECCoLoV) will be showing “In Transition 1.0” on Sunday, June 11, at 2 p.m. at the Yurt at Shepardfields on Bogel Road. Admission is free. The film is about things communities are doing to transition to a way of life that is more local and requires less energy.

7. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. (instead of July 7, due to the holiday).

8. Adjournment

Martha Hansen made a motion, seconded by Nancy Pincus, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. All present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary