

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam
Regular Meeting
River House
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:11 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, Nancy Pincus, Ken Simon (by telephone), Chad Peterson, Jean Breuler
Regular members absent: Yvonne Rubin, Sue Staehly
Guest: Terri Smith

2. Secretary's Report

Approval of 11-3-2010 minutes

The minutes were discussed

Martha Hansen moved to accept the minutes as presented, Nancy Pincus seconded the motion, which passed.

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 4 regular members and 2 alternates.

Terri Smith has applied to join the committee.

Martha Hansen made a motion, seconded by Chad Peterson, to recommend that the Board of Selectmen appoint Terri Smith as a regular member of the Green Committee. Motion passed.

Chad Peterson made a motion, seconded by Martha Hansen, to recommend that the Board of Selectmen officially remove the Green Committee members who have informally resigned (by lack of participation for 1 year or more) from the committee: Jon Russell, Angela Spradlin and Allen Compagno; and to accept the resignation of Roger McNelly who resigned in person at the September 2009 meeting. Motion passed.

4. Member's Reports

A. Community Food Bank Garden update

Nancy Pincus and Martha Hansen attended the Rockfall Foundation Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on November 18. Nancy created a display about the Food Bank Victory Garden. Over 122 lbs. of produce has been donated to the Food Bank from the garden this year. Spinach is still growing under row covers. Nancy reported that there were problems with cucumber beetles and squash beetles & bugs this year, so she will take a break from growing those crops next year. She asked for ideas of what to grow instead. The discussion will continue at the January meeting.

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

The NE Grass Roots Environment Fund grant deadline is February 15, 2011. There was a brief discussion about possible grant projects. The Green Committee has about 45 reusable bags left in inventory. The Grist Mill Market and the Nathan Hall Pharmacy still have plenty of bags for sale. The bags are also being sold at the Gillette Castle Gift Shop.

C. Newsletter –Next edition

Martha Hansen passed out a draft of the December/January newsletter and asked for suggestions for articles. Ken Simon asked to have an article on the benefits of Single Stream Recycling and Chad Peterson will write an article on wild edibles. Suggestions for other articles were: How to retrofit older homes for energy efficiency, How to organize recycling at home, The problems of plastic water bottles, Styrofoam coffee cups, etc. and the benefits of reusable bottles and cups. Nantucket Island's Zero Waste policy was also discussed.

D. Grants and Grant Project possibilities –

Tabled until January.

5. Audience of Citizens – no public participation

6. General Discussion

A. Green Committee web page

Tabled until January.

B. Winter Events magazine article, deadline December 10

Martha Hansen will get in touch with Ken Simon about this.

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

Tabled until January.

D. Single Stream Recycling, zero-waste

There was a discussion about recycling and what kinds of plastic can be recycled – 1 & 2 only, or 1 -7; and what about bottle caps? Martha Hansen will find out and include the information in the newsletter article.

7. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

8. Adjournment

Nancy Pincus made a motion, seconded by Chad Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen, Secretary