

Meeting Minutes

Cleaner Greener Hingham

Thursday January 12, 2023, 5:00 pm

On Zoom

In attendance: Maria Zade (Chair), Janice McPhillips, Tony George, Katie Gallacher

Not present: Mark Engel, Alyson Anderson

Guests: Ginny LeClair (Hingham Sustainability Director), Adam Norman (Town of Cohasset Open Space Committee), Elliott Place (HNZ), Tina Sherwood (CGH Liaison to AdComm), Bev Vernon

1. Water Bottle Ban Bylaw update and planning:

Maria submitted 2 warrant articles to the Selectboard ahead of the deadline of 1/20/23. Town Counsel reviewed them prior to submission. One article is the municipal ban, the other is the commercial ban. We will most likely have an opportunity to present more info to the selectboard this winter. Selectboard will make a decision whether they support these articles or not and AdComm will write an opinion that will appear in the Town Warrant.

We discussed the issue of installing new hydration stations around Hingham. Weir River Water System offered to pay for 2 hydration stations around town. Maria asked Ginny if she might be able to find grants to pay for additional hydration stations. This would be pursued regardless of whether the Bylaws banning sales of single use bottles are passed. **Action Item – Ginny** will look into any available grants that can fund hydration stations.

Discussed trial of lunch at PRS without the sale of single use water bottles. **Action Item – Janice** will get in touch with Food Service and PRS to see how it's going and ask if they will send a letter of support to the SB.

Outreach and Communication:

- Discussed the fact that we have not yet been in touch with the Hingham Rec or the Country Club. **Action Item – Tony** will reach out to the Rec and Country Club
- Discussed the fact that we need citizens and community groups who are in support of the bylaws to reach out to the Selectboard. We need verbiage that we can send out to groups of people who would be willing to write letters of support to the Selectboard. **Action Item - Katie** G will work to create a draft letter by 1/23/23 that we can share with groups and contacts. Other groups in town that would likely write letters of support include Hingham Net Zero, Hingham Unity Council. **Action item – all committee members** should ask own list of contacts via email or social media to write letters to Select Board. **Action Item – Janice** will send info Town of Hingham IT to put this on their Facebook page. Letters need to be sent to Select Board by **2/3/23 (DID I GET THAT CORRECT?)**

- Discussed putting up lawn signs. We agreed this could be problematic for our committee given that they are made of plastic. Alyson knows of a place that makes covers for political signs that we could reuse. We agreed that our first choice is to try other strategies first. **Action Item – Alyson** needs to share info about cost of recovering signs. Janice could ask DPW if they would pay to recover signs if we decide to go this route.
- Stand out at the Transfer Station – we could hold signs at the dump or maybe even be outside by the recycling drop off to engage and educate citizens that way. We could hand out small slips of paper with info. **Action Item – Janice** will contact DPW to ask if we are allowed to be at the Recycling bins at the Transfer Station to talk to citizens.
- Discussed getting in touch with Sports Teams and Boosters to see if they will support the Bylaws. Coaches are often frustrated by plastic bottle litter that is left over after games. **Action Item – Maria** to contact HSP again to get their support. **Action Item – Bev** agreed to contact the booster parents at HHS (**Action Item – Maria** to send a list of contacts for sports teams to Bev)
- Discussed getting students involved in supporting the articles. Someone mentioned the article that was written in 2019 about the students who presented info to the School Committee. Find out where those students are now and see if they would be willing to get involved. **Action Item – Bev** Vernon knows several of these families and will reach out to find families who were involved.
- Reach out to businesses we contacted and ask if they would write letters of support to the Select Board. **Action Item - Tony** will contact South Shore Sports Center.
- Tina Sherwood asked if there is any opposition that we know of to these articles and if so, have we vetted this issue with any groups or individuals who are opposed. She suggested we make an FAQ document and that we post that on social media, CGH website, share on the Town of Hingham Facebook page, etc. One group potentially opposed to this would be HMLP line workers, police or firefighters. Those groups are exempt from the ban because there is language in the bylaw about providing water when an emergency has been declared. **Action Item - Katie** to draft FAQ document and circulate for the rest of the committee to add to **Action Item – Janice** will send this document to Hingham IT.
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- 2. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hrs in advance
 - **Action Item – Maria** will send a list of goals to Ginny
- 3. Approval of Minutes from previous 2022 meetings.
 - Minutes from 12/13/22 approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice McPhillips

