

Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee Minutes
January 29, 2019

Present: Brenda Black, Janice McPhillips, Katie Puzo, Steve Jiranek, Andy Ayer
Guests: Lynn Barclay (Hingham Downtown Assoc), Nan Walsh (Owner, La Petit Maison representing other downtown business owners)

1. Socialization of the bag bylaw:
 - a. Steve J visited 28 downtown businesses in December 2018 to take an informal poll about the plastic bag issue. He shared a report with results indicating that the majority of respondents were in support of the ban. Graphs need to be redone as percentages rather than as counts. Andy will walk around and meet with the remaining stores this week. Discussed the need to stop in to chat with restaurant owners because those who do take out will be impacted by the ban. Andy is meeting with HDA on 2/1/19. Lynn and Nan came to this meeting to share concerns about a small business owner in town who purchased a 3-year supply of plastic bags that would be subject to the ban. We discussed possibly changing the date of implementation of the ban for stores smaller than a certain square footage or possibility of a particular store appealing for a waiver regarding compliance to BOH based on hardship. We agreed that CGH will attempt to accommodate special concerns raised by small businesses. Discussed the possibility of printing copies of most recent CGH newsletter and distributing to town merchants. We reviewed the process by which downtown businesses were notified that we were working on a bag ban bylaw. Steve J contacted Lynn Barclay (HDA) in November and December and only recently connected with her about the issue. He will review the timeline for communication between CGH and the HDA as this will be important when presenting to Selectmen and Advisory Committee.
 - b. Next public meeting is currently scheduled for 2/14/19 at the library. Discussed the idea of an alternative date to Valentine's Day where attendance might be low – Katie will contact town hall to see about finding another available date for a meeting.
 - c. Discussed other ways to publicize the next meeting and who to specifically invite. Katie will invite Faith Organizations. Andy has a list to invite that includes the town republican committee, town democratic committee, School Green Teams.
 - d. How will the committee educate about the content of the warrant article? Now that the warrant has been submitted, it will be published on the town's website on 2/1/19 and we can add the text of the bylaw into the slide deck for the next presentation. Also, need to drop the slide that says "what you can do" from the presentation. Andy can put the whole slide deck on the CGH website. Discussed the fact that the role of the committee now that bylaw has been submitted is to educate the town about the reasons why we have submitted the warrant article. We cannot advocate or promote the idea of the warrant article in print, on the town's Facebook page or via the new Cleaner Greener Hingham list serve that Andy created. We can continue to post facts about plastic bags on the town's FB page as long as it doesn't promote the bylaw. Town library cart is reserved for 2 weeks prior to town meeting – ask HHS Green team if they can create a display. Discussed meet and greet at the Transfer Station or other public place – can't do the TS or any other town property, but engaging in conversation in other places is fine.
 - e. How will the committee educate about the need to use reusable bags? Peter Swanson is working with HHS Green Team to choose a bag and develop a Hingham Recycles logo. Andy suggested that April is "Refuse Single Use" month.

- f. CGH website – Andy is working with Kate Richardsson in IT on this and briefly discussed what will appear on the new CGH page. Discussed posting recycling tips of the week on the CGH. Andy is working on a new survey which will be on the CGH website by 2/4/19. The goal is to get the word out about the survey so we can get as much participation as possible before warrant article is reviewed by BoS and Advisory Committee
2. Will the committee support using the committee’s funds to purchase the showing rights for the documentary **Plastics Ocean? When to show the documentary?**
 - a. Discussed the fact that it’s not appropriate for the CGH committee to use town funds to purchase the rights to show the documentary at public schools because we cannot advocate for the bylaw. It was suggested that Green Teams at schools can purchase it for \$95 and show it and if they like, they can invite CGH to present a short talk about the issue to kids.
3. Reviewed and approved Winter edition of Recycling News. Andy sent it to Kate R. in IT and it is up on the CGH website.
4. Identify a working group/subcommittee to prepare a draft of the Committee Annual Report for our next meeting, Report due by 2/15/19. Brenda will ask Steve C. if he’s willing to do the writing with help from David White.
5. Prepare for Selectmen and Advisory Committee meetings and Town Meeting: Need to create a 6-minute presentation with slides. Ask HHS Green Team if a group can give a presentation. Make a presentation of photos of bag litter around Hingham. Questions we are likely to be asked include how many businesses we talked to? What’s the impact of a ban on low income people in town? Others? Need to engage “champions” in town to get the word out, we as a committee can no longer advocate for the ban. Katie will craft language of a letter to send out to advocates.
6. Need to update Andy’s “Road Map”
7. Date for next meeting: 2/5. Will discuss Town Cleanup scheduled for 4/7

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice McPhillips