

Minutes
Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee Meeting
March 12, 2026

Remote via Zoom

Present: Janice McPhillips, Michael Poling, Mark Engel, Maria Zade, Peter Swason

Guests: Lance (DPW), Patricia Burke

Co-Chair Janice McPhillips called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and read the obligatory opening statement.

1. Updates from the Transfer Station / DPW

Lance reported that the sign proposed by Cleaner Greener Hingham to the DPW was not well received. The DPW has a preferred sign designer and manufacturer that the DPW can work with to improve the proposed design. Lance will also ask for ideas from the South Shore Recycling Collaborative as we may be able to use something that has worked in another town. Michael Poling will also share the images he and Peter reviewed.

Janice received data about success of the redeemable program in 2025 and will write an article in for the Anchor.

Maria sent emails to all of the PTOs and building principals in town. Since that time, there have been 13 total signups, including the email blast from the Town. Maria will resubmit the listing to the school newsletters to be included. Maria will write an article for the Hingham Anchor. (Be sure to mention that the Green Teams benefit from the credits and that they can use the funds to expand their programming.)

For Cleaner Greener Hingham day, the DPW prefers that there be a designated drop off point at the Transfer Station. The DPW will donate bags to the effort. Michael is waiting to hear from the Town Clerk as to whether we can have a small kickoff event at Hingham Bathing Beach. He redesigned the flyer and is ready to send out promotional emails.

2. Cleaner Greener Hingham community table at the Hingham Farmers Market (Winter Market)

CGH will be at the Hingham Farmers Market from March 21 from 10 am - 1pm. Janice and Maria will be there. We will promote:

- the partnership with Black Earth (Patricia will send the list of neighboring towns that have similar programs so we can direct people to those programs where appropriate)

- The North and South River Watershed Association's sale of rain barrels and composters through April 12 (pickup April 25)
- Solicitation of new members
- Upcoming food waste bans

We will visit the summer HFM and are waiting on dates (have been requested).

3. Town wide cleanup on April 11, 2026

Michael is waiting to hear from the Town Clerk as to whether we can have a small kickoff event at Hingham Bathing Beach. He redesigned the flyer and is ready to send out promotional emails. It is shaping up to be a great event!

4. Follow-up from All Schools Recycling Meeting on 3/3/26

The meeting was not all well attended in prior years. The consensus was that recycling is not going particularly well at any of the schools. Peter's impression was that custodians are discouraged because recycling is being thrown in the trash. The good news is that students and teachers are working hard to separate trash from recycling.

The contract with the trash hauler is coming up for re-negotiation in the spring. That would be a good time to argue for recycling in the new contract.

Wishes:

- Recycling should be picked up separately from trash
- Compostable trays should be picked up as they were in the past
- Food scraps recycling program (pickup)

Concerns:

- Contract issues for the recycling program
- How to organize and pay for a food scrap recycling program

Peter asked who monitors the haulers as they should be required by law to bundle trash and recycling services. Janice will ask the South Shore Recycling Collaborative.

5. Updates on food scraps collection at Hingham Schools

Janice will ask Christin Eigenmann if HMS would be willing to participate in the food scraps recycling program.

6. Education goals for 2026

Maria will write an article about the Black Earth composting program.

Janice will write an article about cans.

Michael will distribute town wide cleanup information.

7. Status of Committee Membership June 2026

Mark made a motion to approve a resolution to remove David Jones from the committee for lack of attendance. Maria seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

Tony George resigned from the committee in early March 2026 due to other commitments.

The committee is actively seeking members to fill the two open spots.

8. Approve minutes from the 2/12/26 meeting

Peter made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

9. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

None.

10. Adjourn at 9pm or before

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Next meeting is Thursday April 9, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Zade