

Minutes
Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee Meeting
Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 7pm
In person at Town Hall and remote via Zoom

Hybrid - In Person at Town Hall, East Hearing Room, 3rd Floor 210 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043

Present: Janice McPhillips (in-person), Peter Swanson (in-person), Mark Engel (in-person), Maria Zade (remote), Mike Poling (remote)

Guests: Lance Mortland (DPW) (remote)

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

1. Updates from the Transfer Station / DPW

Lance reported that the new sign for redeemable cans was ready to go and asked for the committee's feedback. The committee liked the sign and thanked the DPW for its collaboration. Maria was meant to write an article about the redeemable program and will do so by the end of May. There are potentially some Eagle Scouts that would be able to help with education of the program. Lance will check.

Action steps:

- 1) Post sign (Lance)
- 2) Publish article (Maria)
- 3) Ask Eagle Scouts to help with education (Lance/Ashley)

Lance reports that the Black Earth compost bin and CGHC banner are both available at the DPW headquarters. Janice will pick up for the upcoming community table at the Hingham Farmers Market.

2. Follow-up Town wide cleanup on April 11, 2026

Garbage bags were too big. Since we have many children participating, it would be better to have smaller bags. There was a muted turnout for bagels and meetup at the harbor at the start of the event. In the future, it would be good to do earlier promotion of the cleanup. Places to promote the event include Greet Hingham and South Shore Living. The committee floated the idea of a fall cleanup with earlier and wider promotion (Michael Poling?).

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

The CGHC has the community table at the HFM on 5/16/26. Members who will be there:

9am - 10am: Janice McPhillips

10am - 11am: Janice McPhillips

11am - 12pm: Janice McPhillips and Maria Zade (?)

12pm - 1pm: Janice McPhillips and Maria Zade (?)

We will be promoting: Black Earth composting program, the Household Hazardous Waste pickup day

4. Updates on food scraps collection at Hingham Schools

Janice proposed that a resident might be interested in collecting trays and bringing them to the Transfer Station as a property tax work off program participant. She will try to set a meeting with Katie Roberts (who she previously emailed about the idea) for before the end of the school year.

6. Education goals for 2026

The CGHC set a goal of having 250 households involved in the Black Earth recycling program by October 1 (currently 183 households).

Action steps:

- Increased email outreach, specifically through neighborhood groups/newsletters/group chats
 - o Janice - Liberty Pole, Conservatory Park, Worlds End
 - o Maria - Rockland St / Canterbury St
 - o Peter - Crow Point /
- Promotion at the Hingham Farmers' Market

There was discussion from the Committee about reviving a gas-powered leaf blower ban as it is called for in the Town's Climate Action Plan. The DPW would be against such a bylaw as it would make it difficult to clear large areas.

The Committee brainstormed various projects that had been previously considered:

- gas-powered leaf blower
- a drop-off food scrap recycling pilot
- takeout container bylaw

Following discussion, the Committee decided that it will revisit a takeout container bylaw in the fall, after seeing the success of Black Earth enrollments.

7. Status of Committee Membership June 2026

Janice McPhillips renewed her term.

8. Approve minutes from the 3/12/26 meeting

The minutes were approved.

9. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

Mike Poling discussed a potential partnership with the Eagle Scouts.

10. Adjourn at 9pm or before

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.