

**Minutes
Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee
January 8, 2026**

Present: Janice McPhillips, Tony George, Mark Engel, Maria Zade, Tony George, Mike Poling

Guests: Ashley Broyer (DPW), Patricia Burke (Hingham Sustainability Coordinator), Elaine Cusker (AdComm)

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

1. Updates from the Transfer Station / DPW

Residential Composting Pilot Program

Ashley shared information about the newly launched Black Earth residential pilot program. A newsflash was sent to subscribed Hingham residents this week and more social media outreach is planned. CGHC's role will be in helping to promote this program. Under the program, the DPW is subsidizing the Black Earth Starter Kit (a 13-gallon curbside bin with locking side and wheels as well as 15 bin liners). When 250 households sign up (currently at 115), Hingham residents will benefit from a subsidized monthly rate. Only the first 100 households are currently planned to be subsidized by the DPW.

The Committee will help in the following ways:

Maria will produce a write up to be distributed online via:

- o CGHC website
- o HMLP's sustainability page
- o Hingham Anchor article
- o notice in the PTO newsletters
- o church newsletters

Maria suggested that CGH members could distribute information about Black Earth at the Transfer Station (including a QR code) with the aim of increasing signups. The busiest times at the Transfer Station are typically Thursday afternoon and all-day Sunday.

- January 29 - Janice McPhillips and Tony George
- February 1 - Maria Zade (maybe Patricia Burke)

The Committee can also promote the program at the Winter Farmers' Market in March and, potentially, the Hingham Farmers' Market in the summer.

Patricia will put Maria in touch with Black Earth to get/make the informational materials. Ashley will print the flyers at the DPW.

Janice was interested to know whether people signing up are actual transfer station users, meaning the program will benefit the Town financially. The DPW will know how many people have signed up, but not exactly who is signing up. Patricia offered that we could ask Black Earth if they would be willing to share the email addresses of those who have signed up so we could send a one-time survey asking if they are transfer station users.

Frosted Plastic

Ashley reports that separating is going a lot better than it was in the beginning. They are doing a bale every two weeks, which is also an improvement from the start of the program.

Paper Cup Recycling

No updates.

2. Updates on food scraps collection at Hingham Schools - is there a role for CGH to help with this?

Ashley asks if we can help with outreach to the school Green Teams. Strong Green Teams will help to run this program. It would be good to start with the high school as the pilot program is happening there. CGHC members agree to be adult support for a student-run program.

3. CGHC Education goals for 2026

All school recycling committee meetings to be planned for the second semester (maybe early March). Ashley says that she would be happy to help with coordinating and offers to book the conference room at the new public safety building. The committee brainstormed an updated invite list.

Patricia asks how the Climate Action Plan influences the committee's 2026 goals. Maria answered that PAYT is the main recommendation of the Plan. Ashley is interested in learning more and would consider supporting a technical assistance grant. Maria will send information to Ashley regarding PAYT.

Tony reiterated that he would like to see more educational information at the TS about proper recycling of aluminum cans. Ashley offered that she would pay for the sign. The Committee will think of a cute slogan to suggest. Tony, Peter, and Michael are going to come up with a catchy slogan.

4. Bamboo utensils in Hingham at restaurants and schools?

No updates.

5. Approve minutes from 12/11/25

The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

Peter Swanson shared an update about the types of containers being used at Linden Ponds following the implementation of a food scraps recycling program. He suggested that it could be a model for other businesses.

Maria shared that the Annual Report is due in early February and she will write it.

7. Adjourn at 9pm or before

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting: February 12, 2026 at 7pm HYBRID