

Minutes
Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee Meeting
Thursday August 13, 2026 at 7pm
Location: Hybrid In person at Town Hall and remote via Zoom

Members present: Janice McPhillips, Mark Engel, Nick Barrett, Kathleen Scannell, Maria Zade, Mike Poling
Members absent: Peter Swanson,
Guests: Anita Ryan, Patricia Burke, Fay Sutherland

Co-Chair Janice McPhillips called the meeting to order at 7:03pm by reading the hybrid opening statement.

1. Review of educational goals and priorities for 2026 - 27

Goal 1: Increase Black Earth signups to 250 by November 2026

Patricia requested an update from Black Earth but did not receive any info. Sara Gordon (Black Earth Compost residential pickup coordinator) reports that we are currently at 178 (based on information on the website), up from 155 on January 1, 2026 when the town's promotion program was launched.

Janice put flyers in various local businesses in Town (roughly 10). Kathleen passed out flyers at the Transfer Station on July 26. Kathleen will choose another Sunday in August to pass out flyers again.

To increase visibility, Patricia will ask if we can include flyers on an information table at the Special Town Meeting in October. Patricia will let us know at the September meeting what the response is from Town Administration.

Goal 2: To increase outreach from the Committee

Maria shared some sample social media posts with the group for discussion. Janice talked to one local influencer but decided that it wasn't a good fit. She will reach out to others before the next meeting. Janice is also waiting to hear back from Greet Hingham.

Goal 3: Update website to reflect current priorities and initiatives

Maria shared updates to the website for discussion. The updates were approved. Maria will communicate with Town IT staff to make changes.

Goal 4: Limiting number of permitted waste haulers working in Hingham

Mark says there is currently nothing that limits the number of haulers. The State grants the Town's the ability to regulate haulers. The path forward would be to make the regulations more stringent so that fewer haulers meet them. He will report to the Committee at the next meeting on the information he has gathered.

Goal 5: Increase redeemable can deposits

Kathleen Scannell will report back at the next meeting as to a partnership with the Boy Scouts to help with this.

2. Plastic reduction on the South Shore

Mark looked at what other Towns have done regarding plastic reductions. Currently only two South Shore towns have plastic bottle bans. Most have plastic bag bans. Weymouth has a prohibition against Styrofoam ban, which is also what Hingham's Climate Action Plan calls for.

3. Updates from the Transfer Station / DPW on Black Earth Compost curbside pickup

See above.

4. Report from recent educational events at the Transfer Station and at the Hingham Farmers Market

Kathleen distributed flyers at the TS on July 26 and reported that the ¼ page flyer doesn't provide enough information to be useful. There is a new version that she will use. She will distribute flyers in August and September.

The next date for CGHC to be at the Hingham Farmers Market is October 3. We will continue educating about the Black Earth Composting program as well as home composting systems.

5. Plans for next Cleaner Greener Hingham community education events

See above.

6. Updates on articles in the Anchor (compost, redeemable cans, textiles, other?), bulletin board at Town

Janice submitted an article to the Hingham Anchor about redeemable cans but it has not been published yet.

7. Updates to the CGHC website

See Agenda Item 1, Goal 3.

8. Approve minutes from the July 16, 2026 meeting

The minutes were approved.

9. Schedule upcoming meetings

September 17 at 7pm; October 15 at 7pm; November 19 at 7pm

10. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

None.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Zade
Secretary