

Green Hanson proud of successes, but wants more

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A clothesline strung throughout Needle Lodge in Camp Kiwanee Thursday served as a timeline of accomplishments during Green Hanson's annual meeting.

The evening was an opportunity for the committee to reflect back on what they've done in the past few years, thank the community and look to the future.

When Green Hanson was established, the goal of the committee was building a sustainable community in town. Since the committee formed they have started Earth day, Rally 'Round Recycling, community gardens, pot luck dinners, low carbon diet, energy demos, the farmers market at the Nathaniel Thomas Mill, lawn lectures, purchasing kilowatt meters for residents to borrow from the library and much more.

Recycling Coordinator Chris Callahan told the committee that because of them the amount of recycling in Hanson has increased significantly.

"We see two times as much recycling as last year," he said. "People are starting to recycle a lot more at the transfer station, and with your help we can still do a lot more."

The transfer station employees are helping by directing residents to where they can recycle cans and bottles.

In previous years, the bottle and can returns totaled from \$1,500 to \$1,900, and now the transfer station is seeing an average of \$300 a month that is going toward Parks and Fields, Callahan said.

Selectman Jim Armstrong said the board is working with selectmen to come up with a way to limit the number of trash bags residents can bring to the transfer station. He said if the residents have to pay for additional bags they will be more likely to recycle.

The committee first thanked the Board of Selectmen for supporting them from the beginning when they began Earth Day, then the community garden and now the farmers market.

Also recognized for their efforts in helping Green Hanson were the Hanson Public Library, Conservation Commission, Water Department, Recreation Commission, Student Environmental Awareness Club, Deborah Swanson and the Hanson Express.

Green Hanson will continue to host the farmers market every Saturday throughout September from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. A potluck dinner has been scheduled at Red Acres farm on Sept. 27 and Rally 'round Recycling will take place on Oct. 24.

In addition to the events that are upcoming, Green Hanson has also begun looking into other projects.

In the spring they would like to have a "Clean Up Green Up Hanson day." The purpose for this event would be to remove trash and debris from the side of the roads when the snow melts in the spring.

The committee will be looking into Safe Routes to School, an initiative to create safe ways for kids to walk or bike to

school, helping cut down on pollution and encourage an active lifestyle.

Members of Green Hanson will also be working with the public to bring awareness of town conservation land for walking trails and public use. They hope to promote the land as well as utilize it.

Green Hanson also has a goal to educate the community about the Massachusetts idling law. They want to limit the air pollution by getting people to turn off their cars if they are going to be running for longer than a minute, Green Hanson Chairman Marianne DiMascio said.

Although the committee intends to keep its grassroots nature, they may be looking into forming an executive committee.