**GREN Minutes – Sept. 16, 2009**

St. John’s Kitchen, Kitchener

**Pipeline Subcommittee Report**

* Hasn’t met
* 3 GREN subcommittee members attending Sept. 17 POLIS (Carol Maas) workshop on water conservation

**Executive Committee Report** (Executive met June 26)

E-mails and Website

* Problem of people complaining they get too many GREN emails—Theo will be setting up separate e-mail lists for each subcommittee. You can subscribe to get the emails you want.
* Issue to refer to Theo for resolution: How does one reply to only the person who sent an email? Currently, can only reply all. Can we get the individual email addresses of all the people on the lists we subscribe to?
* “All” goes to everyone. One must be a paid GREN member to be on a subcommittee. There will soon be a “members only” e-mail list.
* Website will soon be updated. Positive responses to it from non-GREN people.

Membership and Treasury

* 26 paid GREN members as of June 26. Everyone should encourage more to join.
* Check with Theo to see when payment is due next.
* $960.00 in account as of June, no debts. Website is paid up for 3 years.

Decision-making

* Reviewed GREN decision-making policy around question of what happens when individual members disagree with a GREN position.
* Agreed that people can argue their own position—just don’t identify it as a GREN decision or be directly critical of GREN.
* Suggested that in publicly expressing a GREN position, GREN representative can state that it’s a unanimous one—or say “most GREN members agree that…”
* Agreed that we need to more discussion about these issues at next meeting.
* Send to the executive any ideas about how we vote on quick decisions, or how we present ourselves to the public.

**Guest Presentation**- Matt Soltys and Matt Lowell-Peltier on the **anti-Hanlon Business Park movement in Guelph**.

* Involved in issue since 2005, started group in 2008—LIMITS—(Land Is More Important Than Sprawl). Organized walks on site, letters, research, education, press releases, developing strong public support.
* July 27, 2009, 60 people occupied the land and stopped work when City starting to install culvert
* Series of injunctions and counter-injunctions and legal action with City - meant the group got access to key documents that strengthened their position. However, City won right to continue with infrastructure—but too late this year to continue. New environmental assessments will proceed in the spring.
* $100,000 suits against 5 protesters, including the 2 Matts. They have no assets, and say fear of suits shouldn’t discourage action.
* The LIMITS group is planning next steps.
* GREN passed a motion to draft letter of support and to donate $400 to help pay for a half-page ad in the Guelph Mercury. Subcommittee of David W., Norah C., Judy M., John J. to follow up.

**LRT Transit Options** – Robert Milligan

* Presented maps showing his proposed location and ideas for an Integrated Transportation Hub for K-W LRT, putting VIA, GO, LRT and bus links in a single, central, easily accessible hub.
* Also suggested various routes and technologies to raise efficiency and lower costs.
* R. is currently in conversation with Region staff and politicians about his proposal.
* R. seeking GREN members who want to form a transit subcommittee.

**Greenbelt and ROP Report** – Kevin Thomlinson.

* Waiting to see on province’s position on extending greenbelt; Environmental Defense supports it.
* The biggest outstanding issue with the ROP is that the hard countryside line has been deferred, with a November deadline to resolve it. Not clear if there’s consultation with landowners or what’s happening. ***(Breaking news on Sept 18 --schedule below for Region’s open houses on countryside line)***
* The rest of the ROP has been approved by Regional Council and sent to the Minister for approval.

**ALUS Tour** – Susan Koswan

* S. was on bus tour of pilot project in Norfolk County--Farmers are paid $150 an acre for next 3 years to naturalize parts of their land
* 16 funders of the project
* Some are keen to get the project going in Waterloo Region

**GREN Meeting Schedule --- Next meeting Oct. 15**

Oct. 15- Elora – location to be announced

Nov. 18 – Kitchener, St. John’s Kitchen

December – Party at Susan Bryant’s house in Elmira. Details to be announced.

Jan 21 – Cambridge

Feb. 17- Kitchener

March 18 – Guelph

April 14 – Kitchener

May 13 – Brantford

June 16 - Kitchener

Bring to next meeting or e-mail executive with ideas for guests and locations.

**Coming Events in the Community**

* Sept. 21- International Day of Peace - 3rd Annual Human Peace Sign, Victoria Park Clock Tower, 7:00 pm Contact Roger at 519-742-2565 or [www.nonviolencefestival.org](http://www.nonviolencefestival.org)
* Sept. 22- Maude Barlow kicking off “Just Tap it! Don’t Toss it!” campaign at Federation Hall, University of Waterloo, 7-9 pm Admission with one reusable water bottle.
* Oct. 24 - 350 degree Day of Action (on climate change) e-mail [info@wpirg.org](mailto:info@wpirg.org) for details
* Note that LED bulbs are now available at Home Depot!!

***Region’s Open Houses on Countryside Line (ROP)***

* ***Mon. Sept 28, 3-8 pm, Ayr Fire Hall, 1843 Wrigley Road***
* ***Thurs. Oct 1, 3-8, St. Clements Community Centre, 1 Green St.***
* ***Wed. Oct. 7, 3-8, Wilmot Recreational Complex, 1291 Nafziger Road, Baden***
* ***Thurs. Oct 15, 3-8, Woolwich Memorial Centre, 24 Snyder Avenue, Elmira***

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