



Meeting Minutes

Tues. November 7, 2010, 6:30 pm

Mojo, 13th and Penn Ave, Sheboygan

Present: Brian Schwaller, President (EcoManity)
Tammie Hogan, SLG website manager

- The SLG monthly meeting was again held at MOJO (tavern and eatery), corner of 13th Street and Penn Ave., Sheboygan from 6:30-8 pm. Several members were present 3 first-time visitors and also a special guest high school teacher from Oostburg, Luke Siebert, who shared his environmental experiences about running his personal vehicle on vegetable oil..
- Again, more than 15 people came to the upstairs Ultra-Lounge area for the meeting, including a repeat visitor, John Knowles, owner of Plymouth Industries and father-in-law of newer member, Tricia Knowles of Knowles Chiropractic. Regular attendees included Jon Prigge, Kristia Wildflower, Rich and Joyce Jordan, Ed Zinthefer, Craig Harms, and Elizabeth Eckhardt. New visitors were Kendra Schielke, Eleanor Conch and Wade Scholten.
- As part of the Educational Minutes portion of the meeting, **Luke Siebert, a shop teacher at Oostburg High School**, whose students also participate in the Road America Electrathon each spring, shared the “ins and outs” of collecting and using discarded vegetable oils from area restaurants to run his used Dodge Ram diesel truck. He said he uses about 40 gallons of veggie oil a week, commuting from Cascade to work in Oostburg, also saves up veggie oil for occasional “trips” to other states. He starts his truck on diesel to heat the veggie oil, then switches to veggie oil, then brings the very end of his ride in the truck back to using diesel fuel. For every 80 gallons needed, he uses approximately 50 gallons of veggie oil and 30 gallons of diesel.

- He also told about a new franchise, Filter Fry, that recently located to Elkhart Lake. That franchise now offers 50 cents a gallon to restaurants to buy up their veggie oil, then sells it for a profit on the commodities market. This “green business” has made it more challenging for individuals to get “free” veggie oil for their own vehicles. Luke made it clear that he did not use bio-diesel in his truck, but just the straight vegetable oil. Luke Siebert is also a village trustee on the village board at Cascade. He came to relate his experiences at the meeting through being contacted by SLG member Elizabeth Eckhardt.
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- The SLG members also discussed several items relating to the “Thinking Green Thursdays” series, including having 11” x 18” flyers printed for the whole series, also postcards to be used as shopping bag stuffers, using some of the 500 plus dollars raised at the SLG Silent Auction at the NOMAD Festival Nov. 27. Other future ideas were discussed for the remaining fundraising amount.
- Tammie Hogan announced that SLG now has set up **FACEBOOK and Twitter** as additional ways to communicate with people regarding SLG.
- Joyce Jordan said she would attempt to get announcements for SLG monthly meetings and “Thinking Green Thursdays” presentations into the community calendar pages of local area publications, such as The Sheboygan Sun, The Beacon (put out by the Plymouth Review) and the Today/Tomorrow Calendar listings in The Sheboygan Press, beginning with the January, 2011, SLG scheduled meetings and presentations.
- The SLG group attendees also discussed possibly rotating the monthly meeting site for the next two months, Jan and Feb, 2011, to another place in either Plymouth or Sheboygan. Following the meeting, Brian again was able to get the **Mill Street Grill in Plymouth confirmed for the January 4th and February 1st monthly meetings.**
- An invitation to tour the Orion Energy facility in Manitowoc was discussed. A mini-van group from SLG might try to arrange a daytime tour very soon in December. Perhaps a larger group could visit the facility at some point in 2011.
- The meeting was adjourned closer to 8:30 pm on Dec. 7.
- The Jan. 20, 2011 “Thinking Green Thursdays” presentation at the MOJO Upper Ultra-Lounge, 13th and Penn, Ave, Sheboygan, from 6 to 7 pm (note new starting time is **6 pm**) will feature environmental educator **Linda Conroy’s newest presentation:**
- **Lessons From Cuba: Sustainability in Action**
Linda Conroy will share about her recent trip to Cuba. She and her partner are traveling in December 2010 as part of a delegation, in order to study approaches to sustainable agriculture as well as health care. Linda will share slides as well as stories about her travels along with insights about approaches to sustainability.

Linda Conroy is an herbalist and naturalist. She is passionate about life and the green world. She is the proprietress along with her partner John Holzwart of Moonwise Herbs and Brooms. For more information see www.moonwiseherbs.com

- Attendees are most welcome to order refreshments after the free presentation. Organic pizzas, local brews and other refreshments are available from the menu. Attendees may also want to ask about other sustainability practices currently being used in the business and building.
- The Jan.-May, 2011 line-up for “Thinking Green Thursdays” includes:
- *Jan. 20, Linda Conroy, owner of Moonwise Herbs and Brooms, Sheboygan, presentation: “Lessons from Cuba, Sustainability in Action” from a Dec. 2010 special delegation trip to Cuba.
- *Feb. 17, Lori Knuth Gumm, owner of Earthwise Recycling, rural Sheboygan Falls, presentation: “Got Electronics...Get Earth Wise!”
- *March 24, Tammie Hogan, Office Manager of Energy Strategies, Inc., Sheboygan, presentation: “Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®”
- *April 21, Ed Zinthefer, Arch Electric, rural Plymouth presentation: “Basics of Solar-Electric”
- *May 19, Jennifer Lierke, LJM Architect, Sheboygan: “LEEDS Certification.”
- (Respectfully submitted by SLG member, Joyce Jordan)