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CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, will have a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Scott Howland, Charlene Webb, Diane Hoffman, Carl Jordan, Marietta Mattei, Sandra Serrano-Alvarado, Barbara Schlein, Jack O'Donnell

Commissioners Absent: Peter Palmieri, Dakibu Muley,

Others in Attendance: Guests Susan and Ariel, Pam Roach Recycling Coordinator, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of October 19, 2009

On Page 2, change “the Commission sent a letter to the Mayor” to “the Commission will send”

Ms. Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19th meeting as amended. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

Mr. Howland thanked Ms. Mattei for her work on the annual report and thanked others for contributing. This will be sent once the new administration is in office. There were a few changes and the report was circulated to Commissioners for final review.

The Commissioners did a cleanup on the Farmington Canal Trail on Saturday, November 14th. Two volunteers were in attendance along with Commission members. Frank

Cooper of Parks & Recreation sent an email requesting help. The weather didn't cooperate, but lots of trash and recycling was collected. The participants cleaned up only on the trail property, not adjacent properties.

Ms. Hoffman wrote a letter to Frank Cooper, Beth Studniarski and Julie Smith with the intention of forming a coalition. She had not heard back. Ms. Roach suggested the Commission wait until the new administration takes over. The idea is to create a mechanism to prevent blight, so it will not be dependent only on a few commissioners to pick up litter. This will come up again under new business.

The letter to Leslie Creane regarding updates on blighted properties has not been answered. Barbara Schlein had a political mailing from Gabe Lupo saying he wants to come up with a plan to control blight. She felt it might be a good idea to contact him to help get answers. Ms. Roach suggested the Commission send another letter to Ms. Creane. Ms. Serrano-Alvarado had suggested the request explain why the Commission wants the information, and Ms. Hoffman felt the letter did explain. Ms. Roach suggested that the letter explain what we want to do with the list. Ms. Schlein would like to show a copy of the letter to Mr. Lupo and ask him to help us get the information. It was decided that Mr. Howland will hand deliver a second letter to Ms. Creane.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion that Mr. Howland deliver a second letter to Ms. Creane. Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

4. New Business

Mr. Howland thanked everyone for helping with the cleanup, including the two volunteers Susan and Ariel. Susan reported that there is one trash bag remaining today on the trail. Parks & Recreation picked up the rest of the filled trash and recycling bags.

Mr. Howland said there is a large number of grocery carts, couches, and many large items that would take a substantial crew with a truck or two to clean up, heading toward Cheshire from Putnam Avenue about 1/8 of a mile up on the right. The Commission cleaned only between the fences on the trail. Their other observations are that the Stop & Shop folks are one of the worst offenders, with open trash receptacles, trash spilling out, etc. Then there are bunch of small shops with neat parking lots, older buildings with dumpsters that were locked and clean properties. Ms. Hoffman asked about enforcement of unlocked/overflowing dumpsters.

Ms. Schlein felt the Commission should commend the people who are doing a great job. She mentioned the Marne Street area. And has a list of business and a draft complimentary letter to send to them. The Commission was really impressed with the way the property was kept in that area. Ms. Serrano Alvarado added that her observation is whenever there was a fence, there was not the debris like there was in areas with no fences. Mr. O'Donnell felt this cleanup was a little more rewarding than some of the others. People riding by on bicycles thanked Commissioners. Hopefully there will be an article and picture in the upcoming Chronicle. The area near the Olin Property has a lot of litter. A copy of the Commission's letter to Frank Cooper will go to the Farmington Canal Commission. Clean & Green did the cleanup, had many observations and wants to share them with all concerned.

Mr. O'Donnell said that if we do another trail cleanup in the spring, we should ask the Farmington Canal Commission to participate.

Mr. Jordan mentioned that an area between Sherman Avenue and Westwoods Road near the pool hall/bar had a lot of litter at the end of the summer. Mr. Howland suggested Mr. Jordan take another look and if it is still bad, we will get that into the letter. Mr. O'Donnell felt perhaps we should have a form letter to send to businesses along the trail that are not keeping up their property.

Ms. Schlein shared some ideas to help make the Commission more visible. She said perhaps we should have a mascot to use for Earth Day, parades, etc. She asked Commissioners to think about this and try to bring ideas to the next meeting. She also mentioned perhaps the Commission could do a skit at Earth Day. Discussion followed.

Mr. Howland reminded Commissioners that four terms are expiring. Ms. Tobin has resumes to send to the Legislative Council for reappointment of Ms. Schlein, Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Webb and Ms. Serrano-Alvarado.

Mr. Howland's term as Commission Chair expires in January. He asked Commissioners to think about electing a new Chairman. Commissioners hope Mr. Howland will consider another term.

- Earth Day will be on the agenda for the January meeting.
- Mr. Howland thanked Susan and Ariel for helping at the cleanup.
- The annual report will be sent to the new administration on 12/4
- Ms. Mattei will email Commissioners letter to Frank Cooper for review.
- Ms. Tobin will send complimentary letter to the businesses with well kept properties.
- Mr. O'Donnell will draft a letter to businesses with littered properties.

2010 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hoffman made a motion to approve the 2010 meeting schedule. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Ms. Mattei made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk