



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Diane Hoffman, Scott Howland, Carl Jordan, Peter Palmieri, Marietta Mattei, Charlene Webb

Others in Attendance: 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 September 21, 2009

Ms. Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21st. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Old Business

Mr. Howland said at last month's meeting a copy of the Ordinance creating this Commission was distributed. He asked Commissioners to review the Ordinance and bring ideas for this Commission to this meeting.

Ms. Hoffman reviewed the powers and duties, and she said this Commission has the right and duty to exert pressure on those not keeping up their property. She also feels that we as a Commission need information on the status of properties that have been reported in violation of the Town's property maintenance and litter ordinances.

Mr. Howland said on 10/16 a letter went to Ms. Creane regarding delinquent properties. Commissioners had a chance to review the letter prior to it going out. The Commission wants an update on the properties that are continually brought up at our meetings. Diane said if we see problem properties we can ask about them, and if they have been reported, we can ask what steps are being taken. Item C. actually talks about a campaign involving local businesses, churches, neighborhood associations, etc., and the Ordinance gives us permission to do this.

Mr. Howland said the Commission sent a letter to Mayor Henrici concerning cleanup after summer concerts. If everyone has not seen it, he will send it around again.

Ms. Roach has checked the trash cans that needed liners, and it looks like Ms. Webb has taken care of them. Ms. Roach got a hold of the order from several years ago. The liners are \$49 each plus shipping (\$82). Victor Stanley is the manufacturer and she contacted them. They said their liners are 36 gallons. Ms. Roach found some that are 30 gallons and they would fit. She will check at Granger. She would like to find some at a reasonable cost to have on hand. The ones Ms. Webb used were used.

Ms. Roach mentioned that in the past flyers were placed in neighborhoods prior to a cleanup. This might get people out to help. Ms. Hoffman said she did that in the past but she didn't feel it helped.

There was discussion on the money in the Commission's account and how it can be used. Ms. Roach reminded Commissioners that banks are expecting something for the money they donated.

Pam was looking over powers and duties and likes the one that mentions involving businesses

Mr. Howland said the Commission's bylaws state that the Commission is supposed to write up a list of what we have done this year in order to make a report to the Legislative Council. There are several items to mention. Ms. Hoffman will start an email and Commissioners can add items they think of. The Commission has had Leslie Creane and Joe Velardi at meetings, participated in Earth Day, Brooksvale Day, neighborhood cleanups, concert cleanups, etc.

New Business

Mr. Howland said we met Frank Cooper at the Quinnipiac Community Service Day event, and he was encouraging and enthusiastic. The Commission is going to be getting a letter from him asking us to participate in cleaning up the Farmington Canal Trail. Mr. Cooper pointed out how many Q students have the need to do Community Service. It sounds like he will have a lot of kids. Ms. Hoffman feels the cleanup should be from Home Depot south. Mr. Howland feels it is the trail users that are dropping the litter. The Town has contacted the property owners abutting the trail to clean up their properties. Ms. Webb asked if any other commissions would be participating. Ms. Hoffman mentioned that Elisa Lupi has some Middle School students that want to help. Commissioners were six in favor of cleaning up the trail on 11/14. Commissioners will meet at Stop & Shop at Putnam & Dixwell and clean in both directions. Commissioners were reminded that $\frac{3}{4}$ full is considered a full bag. Along the trail bags can be filled and left for Parks & Recreation workers to pick up. The Commission needs bags. Volunteers should meet at the Putnam Avenue Stop & Shop Parking Lot at 8:45.

Ms. Hoffman asked where we go now with the review of the Commission's powers and duties. Mr. Howland said keep it on the table. A letter went to Ms. Creane and a letter is going to the Mayor. We have formed coalitions with different groups. We have to establish a relationship with the new administration. Ms. Hoffman said she will write an email to see if Ms. Smith, Mr. Cooper, etc. are interested in starting the coalition. Ms. Hoffman said we need to create a core group to reach out to the businesses, churches, neighborhood associations, etc. We would also like to have the new mayor call

upon the community to participate in cleaning up the Town, and also start enforcement action.

There was discussion on the feeling of Commissioners that this Commission is ignored by the powers that be. If the Commission is going to continue to be ignored, we will not be able to accomplish our goals.

Ms. Webb mentioned that a couple of years ago she and Carolyn Smyth got together with the Mayor, Scott Jackson, Joe Velardi, Planning & Zoning staff, etc. to work on property maintenance and litter problems.

Mr. Palmieri said the next meeting should be an input meeting – questions/complaints, and then call for a meeting with the Legislative Council. We should rank our ideas, and then vote on them.

Ms. Mattei said we should send our report to the Mayor's Office after the election, stating what we have done and what we want to do. Mr. Howland said we have to make a compelling argument.

For next meeting, we will put our priorities together.

Ms. Hoffman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk