



# 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, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Howland, Ms. Mattei, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Prete, Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Schlein, Ms. Serrano Alvarado, Ms. Webb

Commissioners excused: Mr. Muley, Mr. O'Donnell

Others in Attendance: Ms. Roach, Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Minutes of April 19, 2010

Under Earth Day, note that Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Palmieri and Mr. Howland worked all day. Mr. Howland thanked everyone that helped.

Cleanup Dates – October 23<sup>rd</sup> is listed twice.

**Ms. Hoffman made a motion to approve the April 19<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

3. Old Business

Regarding the June cleanup, Mr. Prete gave Mr. Howland the name of Mark Candido of Quinnipiac Bank. Mr. Candido was anxious to sponsor, but it is too short notice for him to provide people and time. He would be anxious to sponsor a later date.

There was discussion on sponsorships. Ms. Roach will ask if someone can be a sponsor in name only. She said the idea is that the sponsor is doing the cleanup in conjunction with the Commission. Ms. Hoffman emailed Rev. King of the Christian Tabernacle Church, but has not heard back. Ms. Schlein said she owns a business and could sponsor the cleanup but couldn't get people. There was further discussion.

Mr. Roach reminded commissioners that June 5<sup>th</sup> is also hometown day at Hazwaste Central. Commissioners usually volunteer that day. She said Solid Waste & Recycling commissioners will help.

Ms. Roach said due to the budget crunch, the Town is unable to pay the overtime required to have two men, a truck and a supervisor available for the cleanups, as required by the union contracts.

Mr. Howland said FOI is a Federal Act which does not pertain to us, but Connecticut has a FOIC, a freedom of information commission. He filed a letter with them regarding our request for information from Planning & Zoning regarding blight. He had to provide background information and a copy of the commission's letter to Ms. Creane. He then had to fax the complaint. It will take 6-8 weeks to get an answer from the date he faxed the complaint (April 28<sup>th</sup>).

Ms. Roach spoke to Mr. Leng about placing signs on the properties we clean. He thought it was a great idea, but we will have to go through P&Z. Mr. Howland said the graphic design person is working on the signs and will keep the cost low.

Memorial Day Parade - Mr. Howland said we have to make a decision tonight on whether or not we will be in the parade. The Parade starts at 10:00 a.m., and forms at 9:00 a.m. The commission will be in the second division. Mr. Howland, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Schlein and Ms. Hoffman will participate, along with Eco-man

Regarding our mascot, Eco-man was the winning name. A girl from Helen Street School won, and everyone was glad she won. It was good for her self image.

Ms. Hoffman has seed packets left from Earth Day if anyone is interested.

Ms. Schlein reminded Mr. Lupo about our meeting. He will come to our June meeting. Diane feels we should invite the Mayor to a meeting some time after June.

Ms. Schlein picked up a flier in Spring Glen referring to a blight discussion at their Association's annual meeting in June.

Ms. Hoffman attended the Mayor's public input session at Christian Tabernacle Church and the blight along Dixwell Avenue and blighted properties in the area came up. Ms. Hoffman spoke up about our anti blight ordinance not being enforced. There are concerns about the Ordinance and about potential discrimination. The Mayor said he would like to pick out ten worst offenders and go after them. Ms. Hoffman feels by not enforcing the blight ordinance you are discriminating against those who do keep their properties clean. The Town is concerned about

being sued. There is a revenue line for fines, and Ms. Creane was asked at a budget hearing if the \$10,000 was realistic, and she said it was.

Ms. Roach thanked everyone for their support at Earth Day. The scavenger hunt was a huge part of the celebration, and at least 100 people participated. A video was made of the event and Ms. Roach has pictures she will send to the group. Wind Over Wings was educational and entertaining, and was paid for from Mike Horn's mother's estate. Dr. Mel did a nice talk. Mayor Jackson also did a great job. CHIPS did over 200 kids.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado asked if Ms. Roach felt Earth Day was as populated as well this year as in the past. Ms. Roach said because there was so much in the atrium, the gym was less congested, but she felt it was as well attended. The CERT Team reported an estimated 3,000 people.

Ms. Roach reminded everyone of the electronics collection and shred event this weekend at the Middle School and it is free.

Hamden's Hazwaste Central Hometown Day is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding our cleanup, Mr. Howland said we can't say June 5<sup>th</sup> is a firm date until we find a sponsor. Ms. Roach will check on the signs. Mr. Prete will talk to Mark Candido and tell him June 5<sup>th</sup> is not a firm date. Ms. Hoffman will contact Rev. King.

Ms. Roach will put out a general announcement looking for sponsors for the September cleanup. Ms. Webb felt the Town should do more to encourage residents to keep Hamden clean.

#### 4. New Business

UI meets with Mayor Jackson and residents on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Keefe Center.

Ms. Roach has an email from Marty Mador saying they were unable to expand the bottle bill this year or ban plastic bags. He is asking for photos of these items if you do a cleanup and include the date and place they were found. We hope to get the bills passed in 2011.

Ms. Hoffman said if we want to invite the Mayor to our July meeting we should invite him soon. There was discussion on waiting until the September meeting to invite the Mayor, after the new budget is in effect.

Ms. Mattei would like complimentary letters to some businesses on Dixwell Avenue. She will send Ms. Tobin the names and addresses.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado would like to have tee shirts promoting the Clean & Green Commission. The Commission can't do cleanups except concerts until we have a sponsor because of budget constraints. Ms. Serrano Alvarado showed commissioners a hand made tag made out of recycled paper with seeds that perhaps could be given out or sold.

Ms. Roach said the Resolution accepting donations would allow the purchase of supplies and/or tee shirts.

Ms. Mattei received a solicitation for the Columbus Day Ad Book and will donate a small add on behalf of the commission.

Mr. Howland will have a cookout at his home for commission members. He is working on a date and will let everyone know.

5. Adjournment

**Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Webb seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. following a unanimous vote.**

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk