

TOWN OF HAMDEN
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES: The Solid Waste & Recycling Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Main Floor, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, 06518. The following issues were discussed:

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

2. Attendance:

Bob Mark, Andrew Wormser, Janice Crann, , Amy Rhulman, Laura Zambrano

Absent – John Weir

Others in Attendance: Pam Roach, Bill Sikorsky, Gerry Tobin

3. Approval of Minutes of the July 21, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Crann made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21st meeting. Dr. Wormser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Regarding the Transfer Station, the trailer is empty except for a desk. Ms. Crann was there last week to drop off some brush and there were two or three cars there unloading. Mr. Sikorsky reported that someone dropped a large piece of cardboard in front of the gates on a Saturday when the transfer station was closed, and the box had the citizen's address on it. He went to the house and had a discussion with the offender's wife. He then received a phone call from the offender apologizing.

The transfer station contract is still being negotiated according to Ms. Roach.

4. Communications

Mr. Mark mentioned the article about the bottle dollars not coming back to the state as much as they had hoped.

Ms. Schomaker is no longer working at Yale.

5. Report from Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator

Ms. Roach reported that the Hamden Hometown Day at Hazwaste Central is this Saturday. She has four people for all day and two people for half days each, which she believes is sufficient.

Ms. Roach will be at the Green Expo on Saturday from 11-4. She has handouts and also has a table top display that she borrows from New Haven.

Ms. Roach mentioned that Scott Harris, an intern in the Mayor's Office, is updating the Town's web site including this Commission's site.

The Brooksvale Fall Festival will take place on October 16th with a rain date of the 17th, from 11-4.

Ms. Roach will complete the DEP report, which is due at the end of September.

Ms. Roach reported that the Electronics Recycling Regulations have been approved and the approved recyclers have to be chosen by the State by October 1st. She will make calls to people that are using various recyclers to see which companies are being recommended. Ms. Roach spoke to Curt Leng about residents getting into the transfer station to get rid of their electronics free. They are working on the 4th draft of the transfer station agreement. There are issues with the DEP and a title search is being done regarding ownership of the transfer station property. The draft lease agreement is a 50 page document. They are planning on Saturday hours and working on coupons as the Commission advised. They are also working several things being free. Electronics recyclers will have to wrap. TVs, monitors, printers and computers are on the manufacturer's list to pay for. A year from now, although Ms. Roach is not sure about date, there will be a law in place that will say it is illegal to put electronics out at the curb.

Ms. Roach ordered more recycling bins with the dollars budgeted for this year. All of the composters are gone.

The curbside bulk trash collection will begin on October 1st. People are already putting stuff out at the curb for the bulk trash collection.

There was discussion on the bulk trash on Sherman Avenue, which has been removed. There was discussion on trash collection and recycling in other towns. Stonington has pay as you throw, and residents buy yellow bags and that's how you pay. The yellow bags help them keep track at the burn center.

Discussion on trash collectors throwing garbage and recycling in the same truck. Mr. Sikorsky followed a truck a couple of times and saw them do it, and he has it on video.

6. Old Business

The rink is open, but no one is sure if they are doing recycling yet, and if so, who is picking up. Ms. Roach said that they have to recycle by law.

Mr. Mark's brother lives in a township in Pennsylvania and they have licensed haulers that the residents can hire. His brother chose one that collects garbage and recycling, and they get something back. It is called Recyclebank. We have to be prepared for pay as you throw per Dr. Wormser, and he said it is a two or three year process.

School Cafeterias – there was discussion on plastic/vs. regular flatware, cardboard vs. composite trays. Ms. Rhulman asked which is more cost effective. Ms. Roach said unfortunately when you compare the cost of washing vs. throw away, throw away is less expensive. There was discussion on the problem of rinsing out juice boxes and straws. They end up in the trash. Ms. Roach will check to see if the juice containers are recyclable – both the boxes and the pouches. In reality, the days of cups, plates and silverware are over. The cost of the energy and personnel to keep these items clean is prohibitive.

7. New Business

Commissioners received an Email from Diane Hoffman about the Charter Review Commission meeting next Thursday, 9/16/10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. Mr. Mark asked if Commissioners had any thoughts on the above.

Ms. Zambrano mentioned that she saw a box for gently used DVDs and CDs at the Library. VHS tapes are not wanted. They might be selling them at their book store.

Mr. Sikorsky read an article about the 3D glasses at movie theaters. You should wipe them off before using them, because they are reused without cleaning.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Rhulman made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wormser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk