



TOWN OF HAMDEN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Solid Waste and Recycling Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut. The following items were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Robert Mark, Chairman
Amy Ruhlman
Bill Sikorsky
John Weir
Andy Wormser
Janice Crann

Staff in Attendance: Pam Roach, Recycling Coordinator
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

Others in Attendance: Kath Schomaker, Legislative Councilperson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mark noted that under Communications it read “The transfer station contract is still being negotiated according to Ms. Roach.” but should have read “The Transfer Station contract is still being negotiated according to an e-mail from Curt Leng.” It was also noted that Commissioner Ruhlman’s name was misspelled throughout the Minutes.

There were no further additions, deletions or corrections and Chairman Mark called for a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. **Commissioner Ruhlman motioned to accept the Minutes as amended. Commissioner Wormser seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Mark noted the following information:

Ms. Roach sent Mr. Sikorsky’s progress reports to the Commissioners. Mr. Mark said this is going very well.

The Hazwaste Report looks very impressive. Ms. Roach explained how the report is prepared to the Commissioners.

Solid Waste & Recycling Commission Meeting

Ms. Schomaker asked to have a report of what would be discussed at this meeting. It was decided that there would be a meeting with Ms. Schomaker, Ms. Roach and Mr. Sikorsky. This meeting is planned for next week on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 10 AM.

The State Report looks good, and will be discussed under New Business.

Next, Mr. Mark discussed the e-mails that have been sent from Mr. Weir. All agreed that they are very informative.

Mr. Mark has not heard from Mr. Leng regarding the privatization of the Transfer Station. Ms. Roach said she has been told it will be soon. Ms. Schomaker said that negotiations are still in progress. Ms. Schomaker added that the Transfer Station needed to be kept open for the public. She added that the Council was adamant that they do not wish to pay overtime. The Transfer Station will not be open on Saturdays.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Roach reported the following to the Commissioners:

CAO Curt Leng told Ms. Roach the Transfer Station will be taken over by Trashmaster soon. He also informed her that the website would be updated soon.

Electronics will be taken at the transfer station for free. Ms. Schomaker asked if Trashmaster would handle the recycling of electronics. Ms. Roach explained that when the State provides a list of acceptable electronics recyclers a vendor would be chosen. The vendor will provide a dumpster for the electronics that will be picked up and disposed of.

Ms. Schomaker said the Council voted on a bid waiver for the selection of an electronics recycler. She added that because it is on town property the council had to approve a bid waiver. However, the State will provide a list of vendors from which one will be chosen.

Next, Ms. Roach discussed paint legislation. She said this legislation has already been passed in California and Oregon. Supporters of this legislation tried to get it on the State Legislature's calendar for a vote this year but were no successful. Hopefully, it will be on next year, and will pass.

There was a discussion regarding the recommendations the Commission made to Mr. Leng regarding the Transfer Station.

Bulk trash collection will take place this month. Mr. Sikorsky said they are doing a very good job picking it up. He added that "scavengers" are picking up much of the bulk trash.

There was a discussion regarding Shred Days. These events are held in various towns in the State. There was one in Cheshire in the spring. Saint Stephen's School in Hamden has one as a fundraiser.

Ms. Roach did a presentation at Highville Charter School. The entire school was assembled and Ms. Roach taught them about recycling. She added that the kids were great, and it was a very good day.

The Fall Festival will be held at Brooksvale Park this Saturday, October 16th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Ms. Roach will be there from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and will return at 4:00 PM to clean up. This Commission will have a table. There was a discussion regarding who would attend.

The Connecticut Recycling Coalition's Annual Meeting will be Nov 16th. Ms. Schomaker asked what the "hot topic" is this year in Connecticut. Ms. Roach said event recycling.

Ms. Schomaker asked if condominiums are required to recycle. Ms. Roach said they are.

Mr. Mark said that Ms. Roach would be going to the Environmental Summit on December 8th.

Ms. Roach reported the Green Expo went very well. Ms. Roach discussed the event.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mark asked about recycling at the Ice Rink and at the schools. Ms. Roach said regarding the schools, she hears from them when they are in need of a toter or have a question regarding recycling. Mr. Sikorsky has met with the Manager of the Ice Rink. He told Mr. Sikorsky that as soon as the toters arrive he would use them. He said he has found the green recycling bins in a closet. Ms. Roach said whomever picks up their trash would also pick up the recycling.

There was a discussion regarding neighborhoods that are good recyclers. The mailing with tax bills regarding recycling was very successful. Following the mailing about 600 bins went out. There was a discussion regarding awards for neighborhoods that are successful recyclers, and neighborhood civic associations with web site that could include this in their newsletters.

Next, there was a discussion regarding single stream. Ms. Schomaker discussed CRC publishing a newsletter regarding recycling regulations.

There was a discussion regarding fines for not recycling. There are presently no regulations in place regarding fines for not recycling. Ms. Schomaker said there is a need for an ordinance to be passed to set fines and enforce recycling regulations. A lengthy discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

The Annual Report was discussed. There was a question regarding comparing different town's recycling records. Ms. Roach said this would be very difficult. Mr. Wormer noted that this would be a useful tool to see if we are at the median, or above or below. Ms. Roach will ask the State if this can be done. Ms. Roach explained how the information for this report is collected.

Ms. Roach said our recycling volume is down. Mr. Sikorsky said the deposit on water bottles has had an effect on this. Mr. Sikorsky said he has received reports that Trashmaster has been putting recycling in the garbage trucks. He has been investigating these complaints, but has not observed this happening.

Mr. Wormser discussed "pay as you throw". He noted that with this method it would be very difficult for recycling to be mixed with the garbage.

Ms. Roach discussed monitoring at the garbage plants. She said that they are allowed a certain percentage of recycling. Ms. Crann asked if there could be separate days for trash and recycling. The Commissioner discussed this topic. Ms. Roach said ideally there would be two different haulers – one for recycling and one for trash. Ms. Roach will send out the Trashmaster report.

Mr. Weir received a package containing biodegradable peanuts. To test these they are placed in water. Mr. Weir said he did this, and they dissolved immediately.

Ms. Ruhlman received information from Stonyfield. They will be changing some of their containers to be more easily recyclable.

Mr. Sikorsky will not attend next month's meeting. He will be in Florida. All present wished him an enjoyable vacation.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Mark called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Wormser motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weir and passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMISSION WILL BE
November 10, 2010***