



TOWN OF HAMDEN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Solid Waste and Recycling Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday November 10, 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
John Weir
Andy Wormser
Janice Crann
Laura Zambrano

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 7:44 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mark asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting. There were none, and Chairman Mark called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner Ruhlman motioned to accept the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Wormser seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Mark thanked Ms. Roach for the information she has been forwarding to the Commissioners and noted the following:

Ms. Roach's report to the Mayor was very thorough and professional. There was a discussion regarding the information contained in the report.

Next there was an update on the Connecticut Recycling Honor Roll.

There was a discussion regarding bulk pickup.

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Connecticut Recycling Day is November 15th.

Commissioner Crann presented an article regarding recycling at the University of New Haven that appeared in the New Haven Register on November 7, 2010. A discussion regarding this article followed.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Roach presented the following information:

The Fall Festival at Brooksvale Park went very well. Ms. Roach thanked all who helped. Ms. Crann said it felt especially good to be able to help new residents.

Ms. Roach has received a request from the Clean & Green Commission asking this Commission to consider helping with litter cleanup especially in the summer after the concerts. This is done on the Saturday morning after the concert. Ms. Ruhlman, Ms. Crann and Ms. Zambrano said they could help. Mr. Mark suggested that Ms. Roach send an e-mail to her regular mailing list now, and a reminder when we get closer to the dates for the events.

The Town has \$10,000 that is dedicated to putting recycling bins and trash containers in parks in Town. Ms. Roach said this would pay for 16 of each type of container. Ms. Roach suggested that all of the containers be placed in Bassett Park.

CRC will be meeting regarding public space and events recycling. There was a discussed regarding this program.

The Celebration of Excellence will be held next Tuesday, November 16th. Certificates from this Commission will be given to several Hamden teachers acknowledging their work with recycling.

Ms. Roach attended a meeting of the Dunbar Hill Civic Association, and took all the examples of what can be recycled to demonstrate. Ms. Roach reported that the audience loved it.

Ms. Roach and Mr. Sikorsky met with Legislative Councilperson Kath Schomaker about stepping up recycling by requesting residents to recycle or be fined. Ms. Roach talked to her contact at the State regarding this. He said to expect people to appeal these fines. She has not heard from any of her other contacts regarding this.

Ms. Roach has not received the approved list from the State for recyclers to choose from for the Transfer Station. The list should be ready in about two weeks.

The Environmental Summit will be held on December 8th.

The first Earth Day Committee meeting was held this evening. The committee is looking for someone to teach composting and growing vegetables. Ms. Crann suggested that someone from the Common Ground School be invited to discuss the future of environmental protection. Ms. Roach will contact schools, colleges and business in the area to see if they would be interested be in this program.

Ms. Roach said if anyone has anything new and fresh that relates to Earth Day to please contact her..

Unclaimed bottle deposits in the State were discussed.

Ms. Roach said there has been a 30% drop off in recycled plastic bottles due to the deposit on water bottles. This could be responsible for the drop off in our recycling rates. Ms. Roach explained that our tonnage rate only includes curbside recycling and trash. She added that it does not include bulk trash and the transfer station.

Next, Ms. Roach said bulk trash pick up is done. She believes that Tuesday was their final sweep day. There was a discussion regarding Trashmaster's handling of the bulk trash collection and articles that are still on the street.

There was a discussion regarding the State Report. Mr. Mark said he thought the old report had more questions as to what the Town is doing. The Commissioners discussed what was in the report, and the possibility of having a page asking what the each town does.

Next there was a discussion regarding the State's list of mandatory items that must be recycled.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that the Wild Spaces column in the Chronicle is a nice example of what's going on in Town. The Commissioners discussed the gardens that have been highlighted.

Commissioner Weir asked when the Transfer Station would be turned over to Trashmaster. Ms. Roach said the last she heard was mid December. Ms. Roach said there are several issues holding it up, but she doesn't know the specifics.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Mark called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Weir motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wormser and passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMISSION WILL BE
December 8, 2010***