



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION

**MINUTES:** The Solid Waste and Recycling Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 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

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

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Commissioner Sikorsky motioned to accept the Minutes. Commissioner Wormser seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Mark noted the following information:

Mr. Mark extended the Commission's thanks to Ms. Roach for the plastic bag information she sent out.

The Mayor's CAO, Curt Lent received the Commission's comments on the RFPs that will be going out. Mr. Leng thanked the Commissioners for their input and interest. Ms. Roach reported that Mr. Leng is very much in favor of recycling.

Mr. Mark also thanked Commissioner Weir for the article he sent.

Next there was a discussion regarding the mass mailing of recycling brochures. Mr. Mark asked who pays for this mailing. Ms. Roach said this is taken care of by CRRA. There was a short discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Mark next thanked Ms. Roach for sending Mr. Sikorsky's summary. Mr. Sikorsky discussed the work he does, including removing illegal signs, monitoring recycling and trash pick up activities, and tagging trash that is not properly disposed of.

Mr. Roach said, in answer to a question from last month's meeting, the revenue received from the energy produced at the Wallingford Trash to Energy Facility is reflected in the per ton fee for refuse.

Mr. Mark said the Budget passed on Monday night. There was a brief discussion regarding the Budget

### **RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Roach extended her thanks to the Commissioners who helped with the Earth Day event. She added that everything went very well. She said that everyone seemed to like the layout. She added that it provided a much better flow than previous years. Ms. Roach will e-mail pictures of this event to the Commissioners.

Next, Ms. Roach reported that she sent out the Sponsorship "Thank You" letters today.

Ms. Roach informed the Commissioners that there are only five composters left. Ms. Roach would like to sell them all by the end of the fiscal year. There was a discussion regarding composting and composters. Ms. Roach believes the newly formed Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Facility will continue to buy composters.

The Electronics Recycling Collection will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Hamden Middle School from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Electronics legislation was supposed to go in April but the DEP attorney had a 15-point checklist on the regulations. What could be changed was, and other points were explained. Hopefully, this will go in May. It would then be four months before it would begin. Ms. Roach added that we are lucky to still have Goodwill, Best Buy and other outlets accepting electronic recyclables until the legislation passes.

Ms. Roach reported that the Paint Stewardship bill died - it did not get on the calendar. Senator Crisco's office did contact her regarding this. Ms. Roach explained the benefits of this bill to them. She added that it would be good if this could be included in the special session. There was a discussion regarding American Coating Association that will set up this program in each of the states that pass this legislation. Ms. Roach also discussed national paint manufacturers who would be interested in becoming collection sites, i.e. True Value and ACE. Vermont and California are also interested in this program. Oregon has already passed this bill.

Marty Mador told Ms. Roach that the expansion of the Bottle Bill also did not get on the calendar. He is encouraging people to take pictures of litter to be used to help get this bill passed.

Mr. Mark asked who pays for the advertising for the Electronic Collection. Ms. Roach said it is paid through the CRRA Wallingford Project.

The Green Expo will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Roach reported that the event seems to have expanded. Ms. Roach is deciding whether she will have a table at this event.

Regarding bulk pickup, Ms. Roach said she hasn't heard from Trashmaster yet. Mr. Sikorsky said most of the bulk trash left over is gone. He added that he has tagged some things. Ms. Roach said she contacted Trashmaster each day during the last week of April notifying them of streets still having bulk trash.

Commissioner Wormser said that having an Enforcement Officer has improved the response of Trashmaster and residents to recycling and bulk pickup.

There was a discussion regarding metal recycling and if the Town receives a financial benefit from this recycling. Ms. Roach will look into this and update the Commissioners.

There was a discussion regarding the recent drop in recycling. Ms. Roach said this could be attributed to the learning curve with new single stream recycling both on the part of the residents and the hauler. Regarding this problem, Ms. Roach will meet with CAO Curt Leng, Deputy CAO Julie Smith and Trashmaster to discuss how the problem of recycling being picked up by the trash trucks can be solved. Ms. Roach said that separate companies would be one solution.

Ms. Roach has spoken to, and e-mailed Grant Writer Florence Villano requesting that she keep an eye out for grants for recycling, transfer station upgrades and a roof for Haz Waste Central (can forward information to Regional Water Authority).

Ms. Roach reported that we did not receive the grant from Coca Cola.

Recycling bins are in. The price was the same as last year.

Mr. Mark asked if it would be beneficial to start sending out bilingual brochures. A short discussion regarding this followed

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding The Hazwaste Collection that will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Mark asked who would be available to help with this event. Ms. Ruhlman said she would e available. This event will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Volunteers need to report at 8:15 AM. Mr. Mark and Carol will be there all day.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Ruhlman reported that she has just got a rain barrel that holds 105 gallons. She put about a third of the water in the barrel to stabilize it but between the rain on Saturday (may 8<sup>th</sup>) and the rain last evening (May 11<sup>th</sup>) the barrel is filled. She is thinking about getting another barrel. Ms. Ruhlman reports that she has been able to water one of her gardens with this water. This barrel is collapsible so it can easily be brought in for the winter.

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**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 Ruhlman and passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by:

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Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMISSION WILL BE  
JULY 14, 2010***