

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2012  
7:30 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTR  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN

**Commissioners in attendance:** Robert Mark, Chairman  
Janice Crann  
Amy Ruhlman  
Bill Sikorsky  
Andy Wormser  
Laura Zambrano

**Others in attendance:** Pam Roach, Recycling Coordinator  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

### APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 12, 2012 MINUTES

Chairman Mark asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Minutes of the January 12, 2012 Meeting. There were none and Mr. Mark called for a motion to approve. **Commissioner Wormser motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2012 meeting as presented. Commissioner Ruhlman seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Mark asked Ms. Roach about the A-frame. Ms. Roach said it has been recycled.

The communications included an excerpt from the Revised Town Charter as a follow-up to a memo sent by Town Attorney Sue Gruen.

Mr. Mark said it was good to see the information regarding Talking Trash. Ms. Roach said this is all set. This event will be held at 7:00 PM on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Thornton Wilder Auditorium.

Northeast Farming Association will hold a workshop at 7:00 PM on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Thornton Wilder Auditorium.

Mr. Mark asked if Ms. Roach has found any more businesses to participate in Talking Trash. Ms. Roach said she hasn't added any new businesses but Amity Bike will participate, and they do an excellent presentation. There was a discussion regarding possible participants.

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

Ms. Roach said the ice rink is run privately. They take care of their own trash and recycling. They use AJ.

The Earth Day banner has been found. Ms. Roach wasn't sure where it was. It was in Julie Smith's filing cabinet.

Ms. Roach now has a storage area in the back of the Parks & Recreation Department office.

Ms. Roach met with Deputy CAO Julie Smith, Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Purchasing Agent Rich Cumpstone and CAO Curt Leng to discuss the trash contracts. They are reviewing the contract and deciding how they will move forward. She added that the Transfer Station ramp is still in the design stage. She also said the Transfer Station employees will not haul trash out of the Transfer Station. The Town will keep the hauling of the Transfer Station bulk and curbside bulk with the haulers.

**Commissioner Wormser motioned that the Commission suggest to the negotiators that they seek bids for the trash and recycling contract and if bids are secured they check references on the bids.**

**Commissioner Ruhlman seconded the motion.** There was a discussion regarding potential bidders. After the discussion Chairman Mark called for a vote on the motion. **The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Wormser asked where we are on Recyclebank. Ms. Roach discussed where the Town is at this time. She discussed the chip that will be in the toters. The coupon program would be with Recyclebank. The Town could have a chip placed in the toters to verify if residents are recycling. There was a discussion regarding the benefits of the chip, and the effect this would have on residents. Andy asked what would be done with the information gathered from using the chip without Recyclebank. There was a discussion regarding the cost of Recyclebank and the benefits the Town would receive by using them.

Next, Pay As You Throw was discussed. Ms. Roach discussed the size of the trash cans and recycling toters that would be used. She said if the Town were to go to Pay As You Throw the residents would receive 64 gallon trash cans and 96 gallon recycling toters. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject. Commissioner Wormser suggested that a letter be sent to the Mayor from the Commission regarding the Commission's position regarding Recyclebank, Pay As You Throw and the bidding process.

**Commissioner Wormser motioned to send a letter to the Town to encourage them to seek more savings from their solid waste and recycling programs. Commission Zambrano seconded the motion.** There was a lengthy discussion regarding the motion. **After the discussion Chairman Mark called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Next, Ms. Roach discussed the ramp at the Transfer Station. She also said there is now a scale at the Transfer Station.

Ms. Roach discussed a complaint she received regarding a resident claiming that he saw recycling being put in the trash hauling truck. She discussed this complaint that she hasn't verified.

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Bridgeport sent Ms. Roach a contract regarding mattress recycling but it didn't include pricing. She has met with CRC and reports that they will support recycling mattresses.

CRRA wanted CRC to support legislation to get money back on the reduction in electric rate for businesses that handle recycling. She said they would support the concept that any one who handles recycling should get money for the reduction in electric rates.

Mr. Mark discussed an exclusion/reduction clause regarding the possibility of the mattresses being taken away for free, and how this could affect other items such as tires or scrap metal. There was a discussion regarding this. Mr. Wormser noted that these items would only represent a fraction of the total recycling volume.

Next, Ms. Roach discussed Earth Day that will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. She said the one glitch is that it falls at the end of the spring break for Hamden Public Schools.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Mark asked if the letter warning residents that they could be fined for not recycling, had been completed. Ms. Roach said it has been finalized. Mr. Sikorsky has made copies of the letter and discussed how he would handle giving out the letters and citations. He said he is working out a system.

Mr. Sikorsky said many people are starting to put things out for bulk trash pickup that will be conducted April. He has been tagging this trash. He discussed a particular problem on Bowen Street.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Mark discussed the possibility of Melinda Toulis joining the Commission. It was noted by the Clerk that Mr. Gerry Gigliotti has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Mark asked if there are any recycling bins for Earth Day. Ms. Roach said we no longer give out bins.

Mr. Mark said we should have copies of the ordinance and the letters regarding fining for not recycling to hand out at Earth Day.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the Earth Day application. Mr. Mark said he would fill out the form and submit it. Mr. Mark will send the completed application to Ms. Roach.

### **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 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zambrano and passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk