

**TOWN OF HAMDEN**  
**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MARCH 14, 2012**  
**7:30 PM**  
**THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**2750 DIXWELL AVENUE**  
**HAMDEN**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Bob Mark, Chairman  
Andy Wormser, Vice Chair  
Janice Crann  
Gerry Gigliotti  
Amy Ruhlman  
Bill Sikorsky  
Laura Zambrano

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Mark asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Minutes of the February meeting. There were none, and Chairman Mark called for a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. **Commissioner Zambrano motioned to accept the Minutes of the February meeting as presented. Commissioner Sikorsky seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Mark said the Earth Day registration has been sent.

He said Trash Talking was interesting.

He noted that there was an Organic Lawn Care presentation last Wednesday. Commissioners Ruhlman and Zambrano attended this event.

Next, Mr. Mark said Ms. Roach sent two Recycling News item by e-mail, but he was unable to open them, but added that the titles looked very interesting.

Mr. Mark welcomed new Commissioner Gerry Gigliotti to the Commission, and gave him a brief overview of the Commission meetings.

## **RECYCLING COORDINATORS REPORT**

Regarding Talking Trash, Ms. Roach said there will be a presentation on April 26<sup>th</sup> by Common Ground. This will be a panel discussion. The panel members will be Rachel Gilroy, Cheryl Baldwin of DEEP, Becky May, Yale Recycling Coordinator C.J. May's wife, and Melissa Tuhous. The presentation will be held at Thornton Wilder Auditorium. There will be a 45-minute panel discussion followed by a 30-minute question and answer session. The ideas for the discussion will come from the panelists. Ms. Roach listed the topics at the Guilford Talking Trash presentation. She will prepare a half page handout regarding this event for Earth Day.

Next, Ms. Roach updated the Commissioners on the plans for Earth Day.

Ms. Crann was asked if she needed the materials from DEEP for Earth Day. She said she did not.

Ms. Roach displayed the flyer that she is preparing for Earth Day.

The WTNH Weather Van is coming. Ms. Roach said she is worried because Earth Day is being held during the school vacation week. She only has two schools signed up so far. There was a discussion regarding various ways of advertising this event. Among the suggestions were facebook, local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and notices in house of worship bulletins.

Next, Ms. Roach said there is a bill before the legislature establishing a mattress recycling bill. She explained what this bill would mean in terms of savings for the Town. Ms. Roach has written a testimony regarding this bill. Her Testimony was reviewed by the Mayor, and will be sent tomorrow.

She will attend the Connecticut Materials Management Meeting next week; she explained the topics that will be discussed.

Earlier this month the electronics container at the Transfer Station caught on fire. The Fire Department broke the lock on the gate and went in and put out the fire. There is presently no electronics container at the transfer station. Mr. Mark asked what would happen when recycling is dumped there. There was a discussion regarding this question.

Mr. Sikorsky said he has started giving out warning letter to residents who are not recycling. Ms. Roach received a complaint from a resident who asked how Mr. Sikorsky knows that she doesn't recycle. Mr. Sikorsky will work on his system of giving out these letters. He presently has a book where he keeps track of dates when he has observed that a resident has not recycled, and when it continues for several weeks he issues a letter. There was a discussion regarding whether the Town can refuse to collect trash if there is recycling items in the trash. Ms. Roach said this could be done.

Mr. Mark asked Ms. Roach to e-mail a copy of the recycling violation letter to him. She will e-mail a copy to all the commissioners.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Wormser wrote a letter for the Commission, but has not send it out. He plans to send it out soon.

Mr. Mark asked about Recyclebank. Ms. Roach said she spoke with CAO Curt Leng who told her that it is in the budget, and they are in negotiations. Mr. Leng asked Ms. Roach to question the Commissioner regarding the size of the toters – if 64-gallon toters should be ordered along with the 96-gallon toters.

Mr. Mark asked if there were any questions for the scavenger hunt at Earth Day. Commissioner Crann and Ms. Roach said the question will be “Which of these three items can not be placed in curb side recycling - pizza boxes, plastic bags or Styrofoam?” The answer is none of these items can be curbside recycled. It was pointed out that plastic bags could be returned to area grocery stores for recycling. The Commissioners agreed that this is an excellent opportunity to pass on valuable recycling information regarding plastic bags.

Mr. Mark asked about the Bag Bill or if there had been any changes to the Bottle Bill. Ms. Roach said there has been no action on either item.

Next, Ms. Roach said she has received calls from residents stating that they have seen recycling items being put in the trash trucks by the collectors. Ms. Roach said it was suggested to her by Deputy CAO Julie Smith, that this could be because people are putting their recyclables in plastic bags in the recycling bins. Ms. Roach will try to track these complaints.

Ms. Roach also read the list of questions she e-mailed to the Mayor and Mr. Leng.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Ruhlman gave an overview of the NOVA presentation. She said it was predominantly about lawn care.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Mark called for motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ruhlman motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Zambrano seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

