

**TOWN OF HAMDEN  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMISSION  
MEETING  
JULY 9, 2014  
PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

**Commissioner in attendance:** Robert Mark, Chairman  
Amy Ruhlman, Vice Chair  
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 7:43 PM

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance was taken as noted above.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Mark asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the June 2014 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Mark noted that under the Recycling Coordinator's Report regarding Hazwaste Central it should have said two lanes. He also noted that Ms. Roach informed the Commission that Covanta would like to convert their trash to energy plant in Wallingford to a transfer station. Mr. Mark asked if there were any further additions, deletions or corrections to the June 2014 Meeting Minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. **Commissioner Zambrano motioned to approve the Minutes of the June 2014 Meeting as amended. Commissioner Ruhlman seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Roach sent out Mr. Sikorsky's 2013 and 2014 Reports.

Mr. Mark said Mr. Gigliotti has resigned. Ms. Ruhlman has sent her resume to Town Clerk Morrison. Mr. Silkorsky will send his. Mr. Mark asked Ms. Morrison to request the Mayor's office to advertise the opening on this Commission.

Mr. Mark discussed items that are in the State Legislature. He discussed the composting item. He asked Ms. Roach for an update regarding this topic. Ms. Roach provided Mr. Mark with a "ton" of information. Mr. Mark thanked Ms. Roach for this information.

## **ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Mark turned the gavel over to Ms. Ruhlman.

Ms. Ruhlman asked for nominations for Commission Chairperson. Ms. Zambrano nominated Mr. Mark. Hearing no further nominations, the Vice Chair cast one vote for Mr. Mark.

Mr. Mark asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Mark nominated Ms. Ruhlman. Hearing no other nominations for Vice Chair, the Chairman cast one vote for Ms. Ruhlman.

Both Mr. Mark and Ms. Ruhlman accepted the positions.

## **RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Roach compared last year's tonnage to this year's (first five months) tonnage. She stated recycling is up 30%. She added that in May of this year recycling was up 53%. Trash tonnage is down about 11% for the first five months of the year.

Mr. Mark asked if Ms. Roach had any more information on Covanta. She did not. He asked what the reasons were that they wanted to convert to a Transfer Station. Ms. Roach said they are losing money by burning trash. She said that she does not know if there will be a minimum trash amount. Ms. Roach will look into this. There was a short discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Mark asked if Ms. Roach had any idea what the time lines were on this change. Ms. Roach said she did not attend the last meeting, but believes it will be within the next year.

Hazwaste Home Town Day will be Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:15 AM to Noon.

People continue to call regarding the carts, but the calls have slowed to about 12 a day.

Ms. Roach discussed a call she received from a resident who was very upset because a driver refused to take a bag of trash in addition to his cart. There was a short discussion regarding this problem.

Ms. Roach said she will briefly discuss the Composting Law which goes into effect on January 1, 2014. She read some of the details of the law, and added that she will e-mail the details of this law to the Commissioners.

In Hartford and West Hartford there is a woman who picks up food scraps from residents, composts them and returns the compost to the residents. She charges for the pickup and delivery. There was a discussion regarding this activity.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Mark noted that Mr. Sikorsky has not been giving out violation letters. Mr. Sikorsky discussed the reasons for this. He said some people do not find it necessary to put recycling out every two weeks. He said eventually he will be able to identify those who are not recycling and will issue letters.

There was a discussion regarding whether or not the top of the trash bin has to be totally closed. Mr. Sikorsky said the top can be partly open, but two bags on the open top are not acceptable. There was a discussion regarding this and other problems regarding placing the carts. Mr. Mark asked if Trashmaster is supposed to do any "policing". Mr. Mark discussed a residence that had plastic bags in the recycling bin and another bin that

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had bags alongside. He said that both were picked up. There was a discussion regarding this problem. Mr. Sikorsky said these things should not be picked up, and they should be reported to Ms. Roach. Mr. Sikorsky said the Trashmaster drivers have the same stickers that he has, and they will put them on the bins and bags. Mr. Sikorsky added that it depends on the driver. Mr. Mark asked if the driver could be asked to not pick up non-compliant bins. Ms. Roach said she has not received any calls regarding trash in recycling bins. Discussion regarding this topic continued. Mr. Sikorsky will inspect the addresses that Mr. Mark discussed.

Mr. Mark discussed the volunteer who was at Hazwaste Central that mentioned having all four environmental Commissions getting together for a meeting periodically to discuss issues. Mr. Mark suggested having a meeting of just the Commission Chairs to see if there would be merit in these meetings. There was a lengthy discussion regarding what the benefits of this would be. Mr. Mark said that the only thing that the four Commissions could do together is a public awareness event. Discussion continued.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was a discussion regarding the August Meeting. **Ms. Ruhlman motioned to cancel the August 2014 Meeting. Ms. Zambrano seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Mark called for a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Ruhlman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Zambrano seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.

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