

TOWN OF HAMDEN

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMISSION MEETING

A meeting of the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut.

Commissioners in attendance: Bob Mark, Chairman
Janice Crann
Laura Honis
Amy Ruhlman, Vice Chair
Bill Sikorsky

Others in attendance: Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Ruhlman motioned to accept the Minutes of the September 2015 Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sikorsky seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Mark shared the following communications:

He discussed the e-mails he received regarding Hazwaste and the Fall Festival at Brooksvale Park. He also thanked Ms. Ruhlman for the pop-up tent.

He also discussed the press release regarding former Recycling Coordinator Pam Roach's new position at Take Two.

Next, he discussed the approval of the appointments of Laura Honis and Scott Howell on the Legislative Council's Consent Calendar.

Mr. Mark asked if there were any questions regarding recycling at the Fall Festival. Ms. Crann said there were several inquiries regarding plastic film. Both she and Ms. Ruhlman noted that people seemed very interested in this topic. Many were surprised by this aspect of recycling. Mr. Mark noted that Ms. Roach had informed him

that if the film stretches it is recyclable, if it snaps it is not. Mr. Mark added that plastic frozen food bags are not recyclable. All agreed that educating people regarding this subject is important.

Mr. Honis said her booth regarding paint recycling was very busy. She added that she sent many people to the Regional Water Authority.

Next, there was a discussion regarding mattress recycling. The container has been delivered to the Transfer Station but is not in the correct spot. Mr. Mark said bringing mattresses to the Transfer Station is the method that is preferred, but mattresses can be left at the curb during Bulk Recycling. There was a short discussion regarding this subject.

Regarding Hazwaste, Mr. Mark said there were no problems. Ms. Crann and Ms. Ruhlman said the express line worked well as long as the people had their paper work filled out. The forms are available on the Town website and the Hazwaste website.

Ms. Honis attended the Connecticut Product Stewardship Meeting. She said they talked about the Legislative Agenda for next year. She said they will be pushing next year for an Alkaline Battery Recycling Bill. She also said the Tire Plant may reopen in Sterling.

There was a discussion regarding the possible Alkaline Battery Recycling Bill. Ms. Honis discussed this program, and how it could work. She added that Vermont has a battery bill. She discussed exemption for medical devices and toys. Mr. Mark asked why there is a push for recycling Alkaline Batteries. Ms. Honis said that alkaline batteries are expensive to recycle when they are taken to Hazwaste. There was a very lengthy discussion regarding product stewardship recycling and battery recycling.

There was also a discussion regarding the Tire Plant. She said DOT does not want the plant to open again because the tires will be burned. Ms. Honis discussed why the plant had been shut down. She added that DEEP has been quiet about their agenda.

Mr. Mark discussed the information and Newsletters that former the Recycling Coordinator forwarded to the Commissioners. Ms. Honis volunteered to send the newsletters she receives to the Commissioners. Mr. Mark said anything that Ms. Honis comes across that would interest the Commission could be sent. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

Ms. Honis will be attending the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. She will have a table at this event. She also said the Solid Waste Recycling Committee will be meeting at the end of the month.

Mr. Sikorsky discussed bulk pick-up. He has been receiving many calls regarding items that are being put out for bulk recycling that are not eligible for bulk recycling. He also discussed a complaint he has received regarding someone who is putting their trash and recycling container in front of a fire hydrant. Mr. Sikorsky explained the measures he will take to correct this problem

Mr. Sikorsky discussed the e-mails he receives from the Help Desk regarding recycling problems.

Mr. Mark reminded Mr. Sikorsky about the teacher who complained regarding the lack of recycling at Alice Peck School. Mr. Sikorsky will check this out tomorrow. There was a short discussion regarding the Transfer Station.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

There was not a Recycling Coordinator's Report due to the fact that Ms. Roach resigned this position and a new Coordinator has not been appointed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mark asked Mr. Sikorsky if he is being notified regarding complaints that need to be investigated. Mr. Sikorsky said he is being notified about these complaints.

There was a discussion regarding when the Recycling Coordinator's position will be filled.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Mark called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Ruhlman motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Crann seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Submitted by _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk