



TOWN OF HAMDEN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Solid Waste and Recycling Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 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
Janice Crann
Amy Ruhlman
Laura Zambrano
John Weir

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mark noted that, due to inclement weather, the February meeting was cancelled. **Commissioner Weir made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 2010 meeting. Commissioner Ruhlman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Mark noted the following information:

The Commission Roster had been received and all the information was correct.

The letter supporting Ms. Roach has been sent.

Earth Day Registration forms and the new recycling policy were discussed.

Mr. Mark expressed his appreciation for the information Commission Weir sent on the Recycling Bank. Ms. Roach added that the list was great. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Mark asked Ms. Roach who Laura Cannon is. Ms. Roach explained that she is affiliated with WQUN Radio. Ms. Roach will be interviewed by Ms. Cannon regarding Earth Day. The interview will be broadcast on WQUN. Mr. Mark asked if Ms. Cannon would allow Ms. Roach to “plug” the new recycling policy. Ms. Roach said she would mention this to Ms. Cannon. Mr. Mark suggested that Duane Wetmore be contacted regarding getting coverage on WELI Radio. Ms. Roach will also touch base with News Channel 8 WTNH regarding an interview for Earth Day. A discussion followed.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR’S REPORT

Recycling Coordinator Roach presented the following information to the Commissioners:

Ms. Roach will talk to the Town Grant Writer regarding grant money for the Transfer Station.

The new recycling policy is on-line. It is a pdf file. Ms. Roach reports that she has received many calls and e-mails regarding the new policy. There was a discussion regarding the information on the pdf file.

Next, there was a discussion regarding plastic bags. Ms. Roach said bags with numbers 2 and 4 can be recycled. These bags cannot be placed with the curbside recycling. Ms. Roach added that most grocery stores have recycling containers for plastic bags. She added that grocery bags and fruit/veggie bags are #2. Also, the bags that newspapers come in are #2, and the bags that phone books come in are #4. Mr. Mark asked if the supermarkets are really recycling these bags; where they go for recycling; and what the end product is. Ms. Roach will look into this.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the Paint Bill. Ms. Roach wrote her testimony regarding this. She added that Chief Administrative Officer Curt Leng said her testimony looked good, and has been sent to the State Legislature. Ms. Roach explained the bill, which is presently being reviewed in committee.

The next Electronics Collection will be on May 22nd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Hamden Middle School. This will include shredding, and is free to residents. There is no limit on the amount that may be brought to the collection.

Ms. Roach met with Grant Writer Florence Villano and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Frank Cooper regarding the Coca Cola Grant. The grant has been submitted. The submittal asks for the maximum amount of 10 containers. If received they will be placed at several Town parks. The Parks and Rec crew will bring them to the curb and Trashmaster will collect the recyclables. Ms. Roach added that she is not sure if we will receive this grant. She added that Ms. Villano did a very good job writing the grant.

Next, Ms. Roach discussed an Energy Audit that was done at a new house on Glen Ridge Road. She said some leaks were found. These audits are conducted by UI and cost \$75.00, which the resident pays. \$25.00 of this charge is reimbursed to the Town and goes into the Energy Use Fund. There was a discussion regarding these audits. Ms. Roach explained what is done during the audit, which includes changing all the light bulbs and caulking. Ms. Roach said the Town is encouraging the use of this program.

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The composters have been delivered. Ms. Roach said she had just sold the last one. She added that two people have called about them. Ms. Roach advised them to come to Earth Day. She added that she wants to sell them all because the money must go to CRRA by July 1st.

Commissioner Ruhlman discussed a company that picks up fruit and vegetables from grocery stores and brings them to be composted. The compost is then sold.

Next, there was a discussion of soup kitchens and clothing banks and how donations are handled.

Ms. Roach said Mr. Sikorsky has informed her and the Mayor's Office that people are putting bulk trash out already. Ms. Roach will look at ways to handle this.

Ms. Roach has delivered the grocery bags to all the school for Earth Day. The bags will have recycling stickers on them.

Pam will work on getting the recycle brochure finished.

Ms. Roach showed the Commissioner a draft of the Earth Day brochure, and discussed what will be in it.

Next, there was a discussion of the sneaker program. Ms. Roach is not sure if Nike is doing the program. If it is done it will only be at Earth Day. Ms. Roach will make a decision in the next couple of weeks regarding this.

Old Business

There was a discussion of grant money for the Transfer Station. Ms. Roach has e-mailed Ms. Villano. Ms. Roach will keep this on her radar.

Next, Mr. Mark distributed a copy of letter to Mayor Jackson that he and Commissioner Wormser prepared. Mr. Mark discussed the content of the letter and explained the proposals it contains. He asked the Commissioners to read the letter and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. All present agreed that the Commission should go forward with this letter.

There was further discussion regarding this letter. There was also a discussion regarding the Recycle Bank. Commissioner Weir agreed to write a paragraph regarding the Recycle Bank and vouchers.

Chairman Mark again asked everyone to contribute what they think would add to the letter. All agreed that it would be good to get the letter to the Mayor as soon as possible.

Ms. Roach took part in a two hour Webinar today. She discussed the different programs that were presented.

There was a discussion of recycling containers and stickers.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Commission

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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 Zambrano motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruhlman and passed unanimously.** Chairman Mark adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMISSION WILL BE

APRIL 14, 2010