



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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### CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

***“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”***

**MINUTES:** The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Peter Palmieri, Diane Hoffman, Barbara Schlein, Sandra Serrano Alvarado, Charlene Webb, Scott Howland, Carl Jordan, Mary Solis, Chad McCulley

Commissioners Excused: Marietta Mattei, Agnes Orłowski

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

New member Mary Solis was introduced. Jack O'Donnell has resigned from the Commission but will remain active in the cleanups and will be kept on the mailing list.

2. Review Minutes of November 21, 2011

Change date of the September 2012 meeting to Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> because of the Jewish Holiday.

**Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21<sup>st</sup> as amended. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

3. Old Business

Mr. McCulley followed up with Chris Sette from the Technology Commission but has not heard back to date.

Updated Blighted Property List – Mr. Howland received an email list of these properties and will forward it to all Commissioners. The information includes addresses on the high priority blight list. Some cases are resolved and closed. The Town has collected

over \$10,000 in fines for blight, foreclosures, etc. The email cautioned Commissioners not to take any independent action.

Mr. Howland said the Commission's Annual Report went to Mayor Jackson on 12/16/11. The report described the Commission's accomplishments for 2011. Mr. Howland will forward the email to Commissioners.

Mr. Howland understands from an email from Ms. Orłowski that Home Depot cleaned up behind their property. Ms. Hoffman suggested that after we check the area, we send a letter thanking them for their “continuing” public service.

#### 4. New Business

Ms. Tobin has information on a grant for trees from the Town's Grants Administrator Florence Villano. She will forward it to Commissioners.

Ms. Mattei had asked Ms. Roach about the property at Malcolm and Benham Streets. Ms. Roach said the Town is inspecting the garage to see if it is unstable. Mr. Zonas of the Planning Office has notified all of the people that are part of the trust that owns the property as required, and is sending notices of violation and can begin the fining process after the required waiting period.

Mr. Roach reported that a warning letter has been written up regarding the Town's Ordinance on people being fined for not recycling. The letter will be left at homes of violators, and repeat offenders will be fined. The Town is going out to bid this spring for a new trash contract. We are looking at 96 gallon totes for recycling. The money for the totes is in the capital budget. These totes would be delivered to each home and would be emptied automatically by a truck.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado asked how the Town is monitoring recycling. Ms. Roach said Litter Agent Bill Sikorsky visits approximately 100 sites per month and knows who is not recycling on a regular basis. If we get Recycle Bank, we would get coupons for recycling. There would be a chip in each tote so we would know who is recycling and who isn't.

Ms. Roach is working on Earth Day, and has called for sponsors and is getting donations. She would appreciate suggestions from commissioners regarding sponsors. WalMart has always been generous but we can't apply to them until 2/1/12. WalMart usually donates \$1,000. Everyone likes the program. Different sponsor levels get different benefits.

Ms. Hoffman mentioned that at Tuesday's Council meeting, Council tabled discussion on the Highwood Streetscape maintenance agreements. Ms. Tobin said the Maintenance Agreements are being submitted for the next Council cycle with additional information. There was discussion regarding a cleanup of this area by Public Works.

Ms. Webb expressed concern about an overgrown and littered property at the corner of Dixwell Avenue and Goodrich Street. She showed pictures of the site.

Tree Program – Mr. Howland contacted the Arbor Day Foundation regarding Tree Cities. 3,400 communities are Tree Cities USA. There are several requirements including an ordinance, a proclamation, and a plan. Ms. Mattei mentioned at the last meeting that

there is also an Arbor Day tree adoption plan where citizen would pay the Town to plant the tree and agree to take care of the tree for the first year.

Mr. Howland noted that the new Town Charter is in effect. He said copies are being printed and will be distributed to Commissioners.

Cleanups – Mr. Howland explained the cleanup program for new member Ms. Solis. In addition to cleaning up after the summer concerts in July, the Commission does sponsored cleanups in April, May, June, September, October and November. In April, the Quinnipiac Group will sponsor a cleanup, and he will advise Commissioners of the date. He contacted Rogers Covell about the Project Green Group, a reentry into the Community program, and they can supply 30 members. They are interested in sponsoring a cleanup in May. If we can get that many people, we might be able to clean a few areas.

Election of Officers - Mr. Howland mentioned that his term as Chair has expired. **Ms. Hoffman nominated Mr. Howland for another term as Chair. Mr. Palmieri seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Howland accepted the Chair for another term.**

Ms. Solis said she has lived on Hesse Road since 1999 and enjoys volunteering. She is married and has two children. Her husband is a New Haven police officer and she is a paralegal at Branford law firm.

Ms. Hoffman mentioned nominations for the Earth Day Orchid Awards. She asked Commissioners for suggestions. Her thoughts were the Ernest Borgnine Garden for the civic award, and Cafe Amici for the business award. The awards need to be voted on at the February Clean & Green meeting. Specialty Wire in their new building at Putnam Avenue and Gallagher Road was another suggestion for the business award.

Adjournment

**Mr. Palmieri made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Submitted by:

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Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk