



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson  
Mayor

Hamden Government Center  
2750 Dixwell Ave  
Hamden, CT 06518  
Tel: (203) 287-7100  
Fax: (203) 287-7101

### CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

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

**Minutes:** The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mayor’s Office Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Orłowski, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Solis, Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Schlein, Ms. Webb, Ms. Serrano Alvarado, Mr. Howland, Mr. McCulley

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Mattei

Others in Attendance: Ms. Roach, Recycling Coordinator  
Ms. Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He expressed condolences to Mr. Jordan on behalf of the Commission on the death of his mother-in-law.

2. Review Minutes of 3/19/12

**Ms. Solis made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

3. Old Business

Tree Program

Mr. Howland said we have permission to plant two trees. We don’t have the trees yet and we only have one location. Mr. Howland will check on the Garfield Street address and get it to Ms. Schlein and Mr. Brand so they can check the site for overhead wires, etc. and get in touch with Mr. McCulley to see where the trees are and how we are going to get them to the locations. There was discussion on choosing a second site. 1042 Winchester Avenue was selected. Mr. Howland will coordinate with Mr. Brand and will

let Commissioners know when the tree will be planted, at some point on the weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCulley wondered if we should have CBYD check the site. Ms. Webb said the storm drain is there, so it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. McCulley said UI will take care of getting the trees to the sites.

#### Advisor Issue:

Ms. Roach said she spoke to Mayor Jackson, Town Planner Creane and DCAO Julie Smith. The bottom line is the Advisor has the right to distribute their paper. The Town doesn't have the right to take Advisors from peoples lawns or driveways as they are private property. The Commission can write a letter to the Advisor. The point was made that Hamden businesses advertise in the Advisor.

Ms. Schlein walked up Concord street this morning, and picked up the Advisor. The Advisor doesn't come to her street any more. Ms. Schlein read the Mission Statement of the Clean & Green Commission and also referred to Ordinance 94. People pick up the papers they want, and the rest remain on driveways, lawns and in the gutters. Ms. Schlein tendered her resignation from the Commission in protest at 8:00 P.M. She will honor her commitment on Earth Day. She wants to see lasting results and feels she can do more as a private citizen.

Ms. Hoffman is also really frustrated by this situation. She believes this Commission can still take action. She is 100% behind Ms. Schlein's feeling. Ms. Hoffman picked up a whole bag full from one particular house, which is vacant. The delivery person just keeps throwing the papers there. Ms. Hoffman will also resign if the Commission doesn't take this on. Mr. Howland thinks the Commission has to drop this as we represent the Town, whether it is right or wrong. Ms. Hoffman said this may be a rule in Hamden, but it is a bad rule, and some effort can and should be made. Ms. Solis suggested the Town send a letter. Ms. Howland has talked to Joyce at the Advisor and is as frustrated as everyone else. They violate their own policy of not leaving a paper if they see an old one on the property, so he doesn't think a letter will do it.

Mr. Howland asked for a show of hands for those in favor of pursuing this item further with the Town or those who want to just say this isn't the right way to go but our hands are tied. The majority of Commissioners were in favor of sending a letter. The problem is mostly with human behavior on the part of the delivery people and the homeowners.

Mr. McCulley asked about opting out of delivery. Ms. Hoffman said she has been calling them for years. She is also really upset. She feels that because of the Mayor's directive, she feels she can accomplish more as a private citizen. There was further discussion about the Advisor. Mr. Palmieri said we should go to the Legislative Council.

Mr. Howland suggested we invite Craig Cesare to a Commission meeting and tell him our concerns.

#### Abuse of Public Trash Cans:

Businesses along Dixwell Avenue are putting their own trash in the public cans, causing them to over flow. Ms. Roach said Shahid Hasan and his group are going to write a letter to the businesses along the Dixwell corridor asking them not to put their business trash in the public trash cans. There was discussion on businesses where landlords do not provide dumpsters.

Ms. Hoffman said the Town is now addressing the blight issue. There was never any effort to do anything about blight before Scott Jackson became Mayor. She suggested we schedule a meeting with the Mayor. The majority of Commissioners were in favor of meeting with the Mayor.

#### 4. New Businesses

There was discussion on the cleanup with the Quinnipiac Students as part of their volunteer program. Commissioners split up into groups. Although we started talking about this event in November, communication faltered, and two of the groups ended up coming to the Government Center instead of the cleanup locations that had been selected, so it took a while to get started. The students were great.

Ms. Orlowski said she thought they did a great job at Skiff Street, because it was already cleaned. They cleaned up the trail from Home Depot to Splash. The manager of Splash came out and spoke to Ms. Orlowski. It seems that when you bring your car there they blow everything out of the cars and leave it on the ground until the end of the day when they clean it up. Twice a week they vacuum up around the back. Mr. Jordan doesn't think this was the manager. Commissioners would like Adam to go over there and talk to them. Ms. Roach reported that the bags are still on the trail where they left them, behind Home Depot.

We have a May cleanup with Project Green. Mr. Howland will contact them. He will also contact the Mayor to schedule a meeting.

#### Earth Day

Ms. Solis, Ms. Orlowski and Ms. Webb will help with the plants to be used as prizes.

Orchid Awards - are under control and will be presented in the cafeteria.

Table – Mr. Howland is in charge of the table and will bring all the materials

Scavenger Hunt – who is helping Ms. Schlein and Ms. Orlowski? Ms. Hoffman said anyone at the table should help.

Mr. Howland will be there all day. Mr. Palmieri will come early and stay all day. The plants have to be there early and Mr. Howland will help unload. Mr. Jordan will be there from noon to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Serrano Alvarado will be there at 12 or 1:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Parade – we need volunteers to march. Mr. Howland and Mr. Jordan will march and others are welcome.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado needs some help with a problem on her street. Someone cleans up their junk and leaves the junk on her property. This has happened three times already. She doesn't know who is doing this. Maybe because the person knows she is a member of this Commission and will get rid of it. She said this has happened three times already. She lives on Woodin Street.

#### Action items:

Mr. Howland will contact Mr. Brand about the two locations for planting trees.

Mr. Howland will invite Mr. Cesare to a Clean & Green Commission meeting.  
Mr. Howland will contact the Mayor to set up a meeting.  
Mr. Howland will reach out to Project Green regarding the May cleanup.  
Mr. Howland will bring extra shirts to Earth Day.

5. Adjournment

**Mr. Palmieri made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Solis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk