

# Town of Hamden

## *Clean & Green Commission*

*Minutes: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden held a regular meeting on Monday, October 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:*

**Attending:** Scott Howland, Carl Jordan, Chad McCulley, Agnes Orłowski, Peter Palmieri, Sandra Serrano-Alvarado, Mary Solis, Charlene Webb  
Pamela Roach Recycling Coordinator

**Absent:** Marietta Mattei

**Guest:** Craig Cesare, Director of Public Works

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chairman Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2012 was made by Ms. Solis. The following corrections are noted, on page 2, third line the word Road should be *Avenue*. The next line down should be *Mr. Howland and Ms. Hoffman*. On line seven the word in should be *urban area*. Under new business there should be a period after the word *area*. On page 3, line 16 the word bet should be *get*. The 4<sup>th</sup> line up from the bottom the word or should be *of*. The motion is seconded by Mr. Palmieri. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Howland wanted to take this opportunity to thank Diane Hoffman who is no longer on the Commission for her terrific job to the Commission. She will be missed

### **Old Business**

Chairman Howland advised the members that the cleanup on First Street went very well and there will be more projects like this in the near future. Mr. Cesare advised the Commission that his department will try to donate bags, gloves and other materials needed for these cleanups. The tree for 111 Rochford Ave. has been planted and the Commission would like to see more trees planted and will work on that.

The information table at the Brooksvale Fall Festival went very well.

Report from Pam Roach – Ms. Roach reported that 91 Cherry Ann St., they cut down trees making progress towards cleaning up. The vehicle at Goodrich and Alling has been removed. There has been trimming at Newhall & Mill and Alstrum and Eastern.

At this time Mr. Cesare addressed the Commission on a number of items.

Freedom Park – the work continues with the planting of a new tree for which he searched for and found the best variety or this location. The owner Mr. Kamp from the business adjacent to

Freedom Park has advised Mr. Cesare that he has continually picked up garbage blowing around and /or left at the park. New trees will be planted along the curb at the park along with the curb across the street in front of the newly renovated Town Hall and at the other corner where the Brownstone restaurant is. Additional work will take place going up Dixwell Ave. to the Library which will include removal and replanting of trees and shrubbery at the Library.

### **New Business**

Chairman Howland advised the members that the end of the year report will be completed. A review of the meeting 2013 dates was noted. The question of a possible religious holiday for September was raised. Mr. Palmieri motioned to approve the meeting dates, seconded by Ms. Solis. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** The clerk will verify that there is no conflict for the September date.

The Dunbar Hill Civic Association will hold a meeting on November 12, 2012 and they will be discussing residential and commercial blight. This is an open meeting and it would be nice if someone from the Commission could attend.

At this time Mr. Cesare addressed the Commission.

Mr. Cesare would like to form a coalition with the Commission and various organizations in town. There are a number of groups who can help with various projects to keep the town clean.

There hves been a number of comments from residents of Barraclough Ave. regarding the removal of a number of trees. Mr. Cesare noted that there was no option in this case. He advised the members that if you have to take down 25% of a tree than the entire tree must be removed. A notice went out to the residents that this work was going to take place. Mr. Cesare cited the recent report from Fitzgerald and Halliday where a complete review of the town was completed for traffic calming. A similar study is being done for trees. In addition a meeting was held with the utilities for emergency response and changes are being made so everyone is on the same page when it comes to the residents being properly informed who is responsible for a tree. Preventive work is being done around the town by Lewis Tree Service.

Ms. Solis questioned the trimming of trees that interfere with power lines, should they cut limbs from the lower or upper portion of the tree. Mr. Cesare stated that every situation is different. He did note that trees between the sidewalk and the street are the town's responsibility but also the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the tree as best as possible.

Mr. Cesare addressed the debris along the Farmington Canal Trail and that this is a serious problem. He noted that his crew spends at least half their time trying to keep up with cleaning the area. Letters have been sent to the business owners but nothing substantial has resulted from the letters.

Ms. Webb is concerned with the lower Hamden area. She like the members realize it is the responsibility of the landlords to provide proper refuse containers, but they must also be held accountable for the front of their properties. She asked Mr. Cesare with his shortage of man power what is his strategy for bulk pick up. He stated that bulk pick up as we know is four weeks in April and October but people continue to put items out after the time period. They try

to get around and pick it up as best they can but the residents also need to help by calling and letting his department know of situations affecting their area.

Ms. Serrano-Alvarado inquired about the relationship between Hamden and New Haven regarding the roads. She mentioned a bad road Woodin St. and Mr. Cesare will give them a call about this and see what can be done mutually.

Mr. Cessre mentioned a trash receptacle on lower Dixwell Ave. and that there were always large items, windows, doors etc. piled up at the container and his crew was going there quite often. He had them remove the container and the trash stopped appearing. The residents have to be responsible and not treat a public container as their own trash containers. He would like very much to see the street scape in lower Hamden revitalized but again the funds have to be there and the residents have to participate by keeping the area up.

Mr. Cesare noted that a number of streets in the town will be paved. Some streets have drainage problems and others are just in such poor condition. He stated about 10 miles of roads will be paved. Sidewalks on the other hand are the responsibility of the Engineering Dept. and they determine when sidewalks need to be replaced.

Mr. Cesare noted that to do all the work needed in the town is a large undertaking but feels his department is working as hard as they can to keep up with the demands. Also, the cost to complete many projects just isn't available.

**Adjournment** – At 8:12 p.m. Mr. Jordan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McCulley. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

***The next regular meeting will be Monday November 19, 2012 in the Third Floor Conference Room, Government Center at 7:00 p.m.***

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka  
Substitute Clerk