



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

Minutes: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Orlowski, Ms. Mattei, Ms. Solis, Mr. Howland, Ms. Feliconio, Mr. Jordan, Mr. McCulley, Ms. Webb

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Palmieri

Excused Absence: Ms. Serrano Alvarado

Others in Attendance: Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator Pam Roach,
Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Minutes of May 20, 2013

Ms. Orlowski made a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2013 as corrected. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The minutes will be refiled as corrected.

3. Old Business

State Street Cemetery

Mr. Howland is not sure what the status is. The Town doesn't want to clean up the cemetery. The Association is down to three members, none of whom can act on its behalf. People are still going to the cemetery to place flowers on the graves of their loved ones. The grass is overgrown. A weed whacker and lawn mower are needed, but this would have to be done once a week. Ms. Roach reported that she met with Town Attorney Gruen, who feels that the commission should keep its hands off. Ms. Orlowski said she cleans the trail every week. Ms. Webb has a place that

she cleans every week. Mr. Howland doesn't recommend that Clean & Green do anything. He would like to see other volunteers clean up. He feels bad because there are people buried there and people visiting their loved ones. The last burial there was in 2007.

Reminder of Cleanups

Mr. Howland suggested that Ms. Roach email Mimsie Coleman to make sure trash bags are under the stage. Ms. Roach said she has the black bags, but not the clear ones for recyclables. Mr. Howland will take the black bags tonight. Cleanups are the four Fridays in July. Cleanups are the mornings after. July 6th is the first cleanup. Ms. Serrano Alvarado has the pickers and gloves, black bags for trash, clear for recycling.

Mr. Howland reminded everyone to email someone ahead of time if they can't be at our scheduled meetings. He reminded everyone that three unexcused absences could result in dismissal from the commission.

Pam thanked the commissioners that helped at HazWaste Central. There were 244 cars. Hamden's next Haz Waste day is September 7th. We are responsible for two Saturdays a year. Mr. Howland said the new coordinator didn't listen to us last time and blocked all of Long Wharf. This time he listened and he queued them. Ms. Orłowski said last September she waited 20 minutes to get in. Mr. Howland said they waited until 8:45 to start checking people in, and they already had 27 cars in double lines waiting. Mr. Howland encouraged everyone who has never done this to volunteer. It is a fun day. Mr. Jordan agreed and added that the people there have good intentions and appreciate our help. Ms. Roach said on the first Saturday in July they start taking latex paint at HazWaste Central. On July 13th there will be a paint collection at the Hamden Middle school from 9-1. They will take both latex and oil based paint. Eventually, Urban Miners and Sherwin Williams will be collection sites, although that has not been publicly announced to date.

The letter to the business owners that was going out jointly from the Mayor and the Clean & Green Commission was reportedly near the top of the Mayor's pile. Ms. Roach will follow up.

Several locations where bulk trash is at the curb were mentioned. Mr. Roach reported that after the stickers are put on the illegal or late bulk trash, usually people take care of it themselves. If they don't, there is a process starting with the Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer visiting the property owner. Ms. Mattei mentioned leaf bags that were put out after the Town collected.

Ms. Webb mentioned that there are weeds three feet high near the traffic signs at Arch and Dixwell. Ms. Orłowski mentioned high weeds going from Mather to Dixwell covering the speed limit sign and blocking the view of traffic coming along Dixwell Avenue from the left.

Ms. Webb said she emails Public Works Director Craig Cesare and Mayor Scott Jackson about various problems but has never received a response.

Ms. Roach said at the end of the summer, the Town will be looking for suggestions for plantings in front of the Government Center building and Memorial Town Hall. The Town Hall will be open by September. This has been delayed because outside work was tied to DOT work. Light fixtures and trees will be installed at Freedom Park where the trees were removed, and continuing along Dixwell Avenue. The parking lot for Hamden Government Center will be redone. A street scape design that will include trees, light fixtures and bike racks will be installed at Whitney and Putnam Avenues.

Public Works will be doing graffiti cleanup on certain weekends, and everyone is welcome to help.

4. New Business

Mr. Leng has our meeting on his calendar for July. Several questions have been submitted for him to address. Ms. Roach suggested that we send the questions to Mr. Leng ahead of time.

Ms. Webb reported that the trash can was removed from the pocket park, and now there is no trash in that location. The park needs to be trimmed up a little.

We never resolved as a group what we wanted to do with the Rosa Jones Park. That would be a good project for this commission, but as Ms. Orłowski said, it is a lot of responsibility. Mr. McCulley will do a drive by to see if there is access to water at that location.

Ms. Orłowski said the trash cans around the stage at the Town Center Park are overflowing.

Mr. Howland mentioned that the commission is still short one person. He said the best way to recruit is to try to think of someone we know who would like to join.

Ms. Webb wondered what the probability is of getting Public Works to take care of some of the issues that are important to this commission. Ms. Roach suggested we bring this up to Mr. Leng.

Mr. Howland said Craig Cesare wanted to do a partnership with us. He is receptive. Ms. Roach said commissioners should email issues to her as the Town's liaison to this commission, and she can forward them to Mr. Cesare. Ms. Mattei said if she emailed Ms. Roach on every issue she would come after her for harassment! Mr. Howland said their work is prioritized. Mr. McCulley said we could give them a list of common concerns, then when they go out for the day if they happen to be in a particular neighborhood perhaps they can take care of the issue.

Ms. Webb mentioned a lower Dixwell Avenue lot that is totally overgrown. Mr. McCulley mentioned that you can find out who owns the property on Vision Appraisal and then report it to Ms. Roach. Ms. Roach said she needs addresses.

Ms. Mattei mentioned the Wednesday, June 26th traffic calming meeting regarding the Hamden Plains, East Side, Ridge Hill and Wintergreen neighborhoods at 6:00 p.m. in the Miller Senior Center.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Orłowski made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk