



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, July 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mary Solis, Scott Howland, Peter Palmieri, Chad McCulley, Marietta Mattei, Agnes Orłowski, Sandra Serrano Alvarado

Commissioners Absent: Charlene Webb, Lisa Feliconio, (excused) Carl Jordan

Others in Attendance: Chief Administrative Officer Curt Leng, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Call to order

Ms. Solis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of June 17, 2013

Page 1, call to order, remove Scott called

Page 2, 4th paragraph, 4th line, after listened, change to and the cars were properly queued.

Ms. Mattei made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2013 as amended. Mr. Howland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Guest - Chief Administrative Officer Curt Leng

Commissioners introduced themselves. Mr. Leng said he would like to attend Clean & Green meetings a couple of times a year to respond to concerns and update commissioners. Mr. Leng said there are a lot of improvement efforts underway.

A tree planting program has been funded. Part of it was in the last capital budget, and part is in a proposed bond ordinance which is going to the Legislative Council for its next meeting cycle. \$25,000 will be available. Trees will follow this commissions list of suitable trees for planting strips and any changes to this list will be will be welcomed. All of the trees in the planting belts

are Town owned. Part of the impediment is that it is Public Works' job to plant the trees and too many things to do with fewer people than in the past has caused tree planting to fall to the bottom of the list. The Spring Glen Civic Association has a tree planting program planned in which the Association will pay half and the homeowner will pay the other half. For the Town's program, there is no particular location planned except streets where all of the trees had to be removed because of storm damage, sidewalk damage and street paving. The cost of the trees depends on the size and type, and some that he looked at are in the \$300 range. There will be a bid process for the purchase of the trees. There was discussion on whether there is a list of people in Town that want trees.

Ms. Solis asked what was going on on Lent Road. Mr. Leng spoke about how many trees had fallen in the storms, two of them on the same house. The decision was made to remove all of the trees, and one is still awaiting removal by the UI because of wires being involved.

Regarding the sidewalk program, the Town has been divided into areas, and is somewhat neighborhood driven and somewhat geographic. They pick two areas to work in. Discussion followed.

Mr. Leng mentioned two street scape programs. There are plans to complete the street scape at the intersection of Whitney and Putnam Avenues, which will start in a couple of weeks. This involves decorative lighting, bollards, replacement of a broken bell bollard, bike racks, trees and electrical work for the lighting. The plans are available on the Town's web site. Two other streetscapes are in the thought/design stage. There has been some work done at Freedom Park at the intersection of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues. The trees still have to be planted, and it has been suggested we do all four corners with trees and lights, and extend the tree planting down Dixwell Avenue to the Library. A renovation of the existing street scape at southern Dixwell Avenue is being planned. This streetscape was done 25 years ago, and weeds have grown up between the pavers. Stamped concrete is a better product and has been used in the area near DeSorbo's bakery. Pavers will be removed and replaced with stamped concrete that looks like brick, and all of the light stanchions will be removed and repainted. We are looking to the state for bond money, but the Town is prepared to take care of this if bond money is not available.

Memorial Town Hall – is coming to a completion. The site was tidied up a little bit and mulched in advance of planting. Curbing has been ordered. Several things have caused the hold up, such as PCBs in some caulking used on the front steps. In spite of the delays, the project is still on budget.

The town through its ad hoc blight committee has begun to take vacant blighted properties.. Dest drive was the first one. The house was abandoned, had a hole in the roof, and trees/vines everywhere. The property was sold for \$50/60,000 with a contingency that the new owner must remediate the blight or start construction within 6 months or we take it back and keep their money. 831 Wintergreen Avenue was considered a ghost house for decades. It was listed with a Realtor, had offers, a sales agreement was signed, and the deal fell through. We will now go out to bid for a Realtor to market the properties. A property on the corner of Merritt and Welton Street had upwards of six 40 yard dumpsters in the back yard. It is now all cleaned up, the lawn has been mowed, and it is in the process of being repaired. The blight committee meets once a month, and also works with QVHD if there are health concerns.

Letters to Dixwell Avenue businesses – the Quinnipiac Fellows are working on a mailing list, and once that is complete a letter similar to the one that was in the paper will go out, asking businesses to keep up their properties and letting them know there are repercussions if they don't. Clean & Green Commission chairs will co-sign with the Mayor. Ms. Serrano Alvarado suggested a magnet go out with each letter. Ms. Roach will look into decals that can be placed on glass that businesses might place on their front doors/windows. The decal would be the same as the magnet, but would have the Town's web site noted on them.

Paving Program – paving has typically been done in the fall. Public Works looked at it and said that is probably not the best time to do it because if it gets cold, the patches don't stick. Also, it is leaf pickup season, and we could get early snow. Right now they are working on some smaller streets. A study was done of every street in town based on a number of criteria, such as volume of use, proximity to certain places, etc. Some of the roads that are being done right now are cul de sacs.

Storm Damage – Ms. Serrano Alvarado asked about the storm damage repairs to street signs, streets, curbs, storm drains, etc. Mr. Leng said the town is broken into 20 snow routes, and that is what they are using to review storm damage. Perhaps 60% is finished. A lot of the damage that was done is to front lawns and asphalt curbing. They found one curb that was very close to a gas line, and as a result, every place curbs are needed have to be looked at by Call Before You Dig. This is a continuous process, but if you have not complained, you should call in or email to the Town's web site. Based on Public Works' survey, the Town was able to get 75% reimbursement for storm damage repair. Ms. Solis mentioned the clean water sign at the sewer near her house is missing, and there is a chunk out of the cement. Mr. Leng said the signs were put in by the WPCA, and he is not sure they still have them. We don't have the capacity to do minor repairs to concrete. We can do street signs. The Town's traffic division is two people, but once a street sign is reported, it only takes a week to get them replaced. Ms. Serrano Alvarado mentioned the bent pole on the no parking sign near 200 Woodin Street.

Ms. Solis described a problem with a sewer drain in front of 4 Hesse Road. That one is full so the one in her back yard is overflowing and water is going into her basement.

Ms. Mattei mentioned that there was some utility work done on in front of 24 Garfield Street recently, and they did a horrible patch job. Mr. Leng said he would report it, but she should call the Town and the utility. Utilities need permits from the Engineering Department, and they are required to repair and restore the road to appropriate standards. Public Works is now communicating with the utilities. They plan these large projects years in advance and will let the Town know what their plans are, so the Town won't repave a road only to have it torn up again because of some planned utility work.

Ms. Mattei was at one of the traffic calming meetings, and she wonders where the project stands. Mr. Leng replied that getting things kicked off was a bit of a challenge. A lot of studies have been done, starting with the east west study done by the Council of Governments. The next one was the Westwoods Study. The reports can be found on line. Some neighborhood associations, particularly the traffic calming liaisons, noted some repairs they wanted to be completed first. There is a five intersection road (Mather Street) where they have been doing the work. 90% of the people were pleased, and then there were the 10% that were not happy. The Dixwell/Putnam Streetscape has some traffic calming. Ridge Road and Haverford Street is next. There have

been several accidents there. They will have a flashing yellow light. They talked about a four way stop, but felt that would make matters worse. There were going to be six or eight trees removed, but Mayor Jackson said no to that plan, and now only trees that are really blocking the view will be removed. There will be speed humps installed on Treadwell Street at DeNicola Park. Others will be installed in the Spring Glen area, but he is not sure exactly where at this time. Mr. Leng said the studies were time consuming and expensive, but we can use some of the information in other areas of Town. We don't need a study for every street. He feels traffic calming is going to be as common as sidewalk repair.

Mr. McCulley mentioned the blatant disregard for traffic lights at Connolly Parkway, Dixwell Avenue and the Wilbur Cross near Hamden High School. The problem is mostly human behavior, and perhaps we can start fining people who ignore the lights. Mr. Palmieri said the lights all along Dixwell Avenue are not timed properly.

Ms. Mattei mentioned that the Welcome to Hamden signs coming off the Parkway are in in poor condition, with grass and flowers needing to be trimmed. There was discussion as to who is responsible for taking care of them. Mr. Leng said Lynn Baumgartner will be taking care of the welcome to Hamden signs and the traffic island at State and Ridge Road. Mr. Leng mentioned the problem of not being able to get water to the site. She and Mary DeSorbo take care of the island at Putnam and Dixwell.

Mr. Leng advised the commission of plans to replace all of Hamden's park signs. A design is being drawn up similar to the Welcome to Hamden signs. This project will begin this summer.

Mr. Leng said for the first time, the new budget includes a graffiti removal line. This is a Public Works job, but on given Saturdays through the year, we can have an army of volunteers working with them.

Mr. Leng said Ms. Roach can get messages to him, and she can report back to the Commission. He gave commissioners his email address.

4. Old Business

Ms. Solis reminded commissioners of the Hazwaste Hometown Day on September 7th. She also mentioned that the commission does not meet in August.

Mr. Howland mentioned that National Night Out will be held on August 6th at Rochford Field from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. In the past we have had a table at this event and handed out information.

5. New Business

Ms. Roach thanked commissioners for the post concert cleanups. She also mentioned that many cars came through the paint disposal event, and she is waiting for an actual count. Bulk issues reported last month have been taken care of.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado said that when she arrived for the cleanup on Saturday, Ms. Webb was just leaving and she was frustrated that there were no trash bags. Ms. Serrano Alvarado said someone was at the field collecting bottles and told her that the bags were there Friday night. Fortunately Ms. Serrano Alvarado had bags in her car. Mr. Howland brought bags for the first concert, and Mr. McCulley placed them under the stage after the cleanup. There were broken

glass bottles there and many bottle caps. The announcement about picking up needs to be made. We also need to make sure the bags are there for Saturday morning. Mr. Howland said that the Boy Scouts collect bottles and cans on Friday night. Others come on Saturday morning to take what is left.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCulley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk