



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 Tuesday, February 19, 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, Peter Palmieri, Marietta Mattei, Carl Jordan, Scott Howland, Sandra Serrano Alvarado, Chad McCulley, Charlene Webb

Commissioners Excused: Agnes Orłowski

Others in Attendance: Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order

Ms. Solis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of January 22, 2013

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2013 meeting. Mr. Howland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

At the last meeting Commissioners discussed the the pothole at Shepard and Mix Avenues. This was reported to Public Works and was repaired within 24 hours.

Ms. Solis gave Clerk Tobin a resume from a friend of hers who is interested in joining the Commission. Ms. Tobin put it under the Mayor's Office door with a note to Ms. Vasil and Mr. Leng.

Ms. Mattei mentioned the letter that the Mayor wanted Mr. Howland to co-sign on behalf of the Commission. The Mayor planned to send this letter out to businesses asking them to keep up

their properties. Mr. Howland emailed the Mayor telling him he would co-sign the letter. The Commission would like to know the status of that letter.

4. New Business

Earth Day – Ms. Serrano Alvarado will call Ms. Orłowski about her plan to contact Paradise Nursery about the plants for the scavenger hunt prizes. She noted that Paradise suffered some damage in the blizzard.

Orchid Award – Ms. Mattei has the certificates from Ms. Hoffman. We need nominations for a business and a citizen or citizens group. Last month Ms. Orłowski mentioned her neighbors that clean up the canal line. Ms. Mattei would like to find a candidate from the lower end of Hamden to encourage the people in that area to keep our Town clean. Ms. Hoffman's service to the Town and the Commission was mentioned. Specialty Wire's new building was mentioned by Mr. McCulley. Ms. Mattei asked the Commissioners to be thinking of candidates and we can vote at the March meeting.

Ms. Solis will fill out the application for earth day. Ms. Roach gets the exhibitors to submit questions, and the Commission submits one as well. We will choose our question at the March meeting.

Mr. Howland made a motion to form three sub committees for Earth Day. The Table (Mr. Howland will chair); Orchid Award (Ms. Mattei will handle) and the Scavenger Hunt. Ms. Serrano Alvarado will call Ms. Hoffman about the Scavenger Hunt. She might have the pencils, and any other items she might have. Ms. Solis will contact Ms. Orłowski about the Scavenger Hunt. Mr. Howland has the frisbees and some tee shirts, as well as pickers, gloves and bags. He will bring cleanup supplies to the next meeting.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado mentioned getting sponsors for cleanups. She felt we might be able contact civic associations, schools, and new businesses coming to Town. Mr. Howland mentioned that we will have help from Quinnipiac in April for the Big Event. They will contact Mr. Howland and they usually provide at least 20 students.

Ms. Solis wondered if she notices a business with a lot of trash in front, can she approach them and ask if they can provide a couple of employees to help with a cleanup of their property. Both Home Depot, Splash, and Stop & Shop have done this. Mr. Howland said when we did Betty Murray's cleanup, she didn't want us to approach the store, because she said the owners should do it themselves. The Guidance Department at the High School might be able to provide some names of kids that need some community service hours. Mr. McCulley asked what is the feasibility of sending a letter to a business that we notice needs upkeep, and volunteering to help them clean up their property.

Ms. Solis mentioned that a new couple in Town sent Ms. Roach an email offering to help clean up an area. Ms. Solis and Ms. Serrano Alvarado will get in touch with them to see if they want to come to our next meeting.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado spoke to Ms. Solis and Mr. Howland today about what the team wants to do. What works for everyone. Ms. Webb would like to focus on beautification, in addition to the cleanups. Ms. Serrano Alvarado said we could partner with a new business to do some

plantings. Freedom Park was also mentioned. There was a question as to who would pay for the plant material. Mr. Howland mentioned Rosa Jones Park, even though the people who used to do it were not friendly to us. He suggested we could do it on our own. There was discussion of watering the plants. Mr. McCulley suggested approaching the Sunoco Station across from the island. He also suggested a sign – saying Cleanup by Clean & Green 2013. We could start in April after Earth Day. Mr. Howland mentioned that he is all in favor of the beautification, but is kind of soured on the cleanups, except for the ones after the concerts. He has been cleaning up his area, using the Charlene model. He belongs to the DHCA and the West Rock Ridge group, and his church, and has had trouble getting sponsors. Ms. Solis wondered if we could have a questionnaire at Earth Day asking what areas of Town people think needs a cleanup. We could put it in the Hamden Patch. Ms. Webb will contact the Patch.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado would like to see a contest to nominate people for the Orchid Awards. Ms. Mattei thinks the awards should be given in the exhibition room, not in the cafeteria.

Ms. Webb reported that one of the trash receptacles at Newberry and Winchester was plowed into the snow bank. Mr. Howland said that would be a good message for PWP Director Cesare.

There was discussion on the Commission's finances. We will ask Ms. Roach for a report at our next meeting. Quinnipiac University donated some funds to our gift fund. Mr. Howland mentioned that we purchased the green tee shirts with some of the money in our gift fund.

Ms. Mattei mentioned that she would like to see an update on the Town's traffic calming program.

There was discussion on the benefit of having members of the administration attend our meetings, most recently PWP Director Cesare. Mr. Cesare mentioned that he would like to see a coalition of commissions that are interested in keeping the Town clean and green.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Mattei made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Howland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk