

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

"OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN"

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Scott Howland, Peter Palmieri, Marietta Mattei, Jack O'Donnell, Barbara Schlein, Charlene Webb, Sandra Serrano–Alvarado

Commissioners Excused: Diane Hoffman, Carl Jordan

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Minutes of September 20, 2010

Ms. Mattei made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2010. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

Mr. Howland thanked the Commissioners that helped with the Shepard Glen School clean up. Mr. Hoffman, Ms. Schlein and Mr. Howland joined an active neighborhood group and 11 Quinnipiac students to clean the area. Neighbors provided snacks, etc.

Curt Leng attended the September 20th Commission meeting and did an excellent job answering the questions prepared by the Commission. He provided a lot of information.

Mr. Howland thanked Commissioners that supported the Brooksvale Fall Festival. Mr. Mattei, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Schlein and Mr. Howland helped at this event. Their table was not busy. One woman signed up to help with the cleanup on Saturday. Commissioners agreed that they should have a “shiny” handout that can be taken home, and that would attract people to the table.

The next cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 23rd. Commissioners will meet with sponsor the Dunbar Hill Civic Association members at 8:45 at the Dunbar Hill Firehouse. They will carpool to Wintergreen Avenue to clean from where Wintergreen goes over the parkway toward Pine Rock. Mr. Howland will send Pam Roach an Email as to where they will leave the bags.

Mr. Howland had a letter of resignation from John Prete, who has some family issues to take care of.

Several Commissioners signed up to march in the Columbus Day Parade, but one by one they dropped off, and it came down to Mr. Howland, and Mr. Muley as the only two willing, so they didn't march. Mr. Howland reiterated that if we commit to something, we need enough people to do the job.

New Business

Mr. Howland sent an email outlining items the Commissioners indicated they wanted to talk about at our meeting. He spoke to John Minukas, and the

Dunbar Hill Church will sponsor a cleanup. Mr. Howland asked what Commissioners thought about the sponsor picking the date. Commissioners felt that would be a good idea. He also asked about letting the sponsor choose the location. Commissioners agreed sponsor should be able to decide. Next Saturday's sponsor is the Dunbar Hill Civic Association.

Mr. Howland asked if the Commissioners felt we needed to update our Mission Statement. Ms. Schlein felt the suggestion for this Commission to research certain equipment was not something this Commission should do. Mr. Howland read the Commission's mission statement.

Ms. Serrano Alvarado said if there are suggestions from the Town of vendors they might use, perhaps the Commission we could research those.

Ms. Schlein felt that this is not something the Commission is capable of doing, and no one on the Commission has this kind of expertise. Ms. Schlein doesn't think we have to update the Mission Statement, but we should focus on things other than picking up trash. Ms. Mattei looked at the Ordinance that created the Commission. Mr. Howland said the mission statement is the overview, and the details are in the ordinance. Commissioners should review and think about suggestions for the next meeting. Ms. Schlein said we used to have brochures on the alternative methods of pest management and lawn maintenance.

Mr. Howland mentioned commitment. What do we expect from ourselves? What we promise, we have to deliver, such as the annual report. There was discussion regarding the minimum level of participation.

What do we want to focus on – litter, enforcement, blight, green up. Mr. O'Donnell said it would be more interesting to participate in a variety of programs, not just litter. Finding sponsors is a problem, and if we find a sponsor, we could invite them to our meeting.

Mr. Howland mentioned Concert Cleanup. Will we do it or not. We should solve this issue before our January meeting. Ms. Schlein suggested we do one concert cleanup and let other organizations pick up the others. We should write a letter for review at the next meeting. Ms. Roach will mention the concert cleanup to the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission. Mr. Howland said we got a lot of recognition from the Arts Commission and from the Town, but he isn't sure how much people listen to the fact that it is the Clean & Green Commission doing the cleanup. Ms. Roach said getting the boy scouts involved would be good. This year the boy scouts picked up the recyclable bottles and cans immediately after the concert. Mr. Howland mentioned we had the football team one year. Ms. Webb asked if this Commission could work on enforcement. Mr. Howland said Mr. Leng gave us many answers at the last meeting, and Ms. Webb can refer to the minutes of that meeting.

Mr. Howland got many suggestions about Earth Day but will wait until January to bring that up.

Mr. Howland attended a meeting of the Charter Revision Committee, and one suggestion was that the Commission chairs participate in the selection of commissioners. It was not his suggestion, but he felt it would be a great idea. Ms. Schlein asked if the fact that commissioners are sworn in and part of the Town government could be changed. She feels if it was a committee, not sworn, we would not have certain hurdles.

Ms. Roach said she has been in contact with Quinnipiac and was given the name of the QU future teachers organization representative, Theresa Maiorano. There is also another group that might want to get involved.

Ms. Roach mentioned that the Shepherd Glen neighbors would like to have another cleanup, and Ms. Roach told them they can schedule it themselves anytime they want.

Mr. Roach mentioned several areas that have been cleaned up by Public Works. She also said that the transfer station will be taken over by Trash Master soon, and they will be having Saturday hours. Currently the transfer station is open from 8-3 Monday through Friday. Hamden will have a new and improved web site on line soon, probably next week.

Bulk trash is going well. Bulk is everywhere, but it is being picked up. The approved electronics recyclers list should be issued by the state to towns this week. Mr. Howland said he has seen two refrigerators out for pickup with doors on them. He went by one with some tools, but someone had removed the door.

The Brooksvale Fall Festival on Saturday was good, although it was a little cold. Ms. Roach said she has to go out and pull people in to get them to talk to her, otherwise they just wander around. The subject of the \$400 in the commission's gift account came up, and Mr. Howland said if we can't use it for anything, we should give it back to the people that made the donations. Ms. Mattei said donors could donate a certain amount to purchase trash cans, or purchase supplies, tee shirts, etc. She thinks stickers or something for kids would be fun. Ms. Roach suggested an activity to get the kids over to the table, and then you can talk to parents.

Ms. Serrano-Alvarado mentioned getting more pickers, etc. We have only four pickers and three spears left. Ms. Webb has one picker at home.

Adjournment

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk