

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN & GREEN

Meeting cancellation and informal notes

Informal Notes: The Clean & Green Commission held an informal session due to the lack of a quorum, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. The following issues were discussed:

The Meeting ID is 999 6142 5756 - Password cleanup - call in: 1 646 558-8656

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Matin, Mr. Morin

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Irwin, Ms. Hennessy, Mr. Jordan,

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Swidersky

Others in Attendance: Mr. Cummings of the Hamden Tree Commission, Recycling Coordinator Mr. DeRisi, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

The meeting began without a quorum at 7:15 p.m.

2. Review minutes of the November Meeting

Tabled to February meeting

Mr. DeRisi filled commissioners in on the composing initiative. He has a power point presentation on the Town's website that Commissioners and members of the public can review. Peels and Wheels will resume pickup of food waste, but he is not sure when. There is a service that can serve the whole town but requires 30 people to sign up. Public Works Director Cesare will put a container for food waste at the transfer station, and he is looking to getting some containers on which a sticker with instructions can be placed. He is trying to copy what Glastonbury has done. He mentioned a Public Works presentation on organic food waste and would like to do a video on composting.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that tipping fees are approximately \$40 per ton. With 20-25% of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) being food waste, anything that we can get out of the waste stream would save the town money. Currently the Town's tipping fees are over \$1 million per year, removing 20% of that would save the Town \$200,000.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned an anaerobic facility located in Southington that burns food waste and turns it into electricity. He also mentioned the pilot program at Bear Bath School that is not operating currently because of Covid, but we will watch how that goes and perhaps roll it out to all schools. That will provide less tonnage in the MSW and provide educational benefits as well.

Mr. Cummings mentioned he put some lamb shop bones in his compost and a hawk swooped down and ate them.

Mr. Morin mentioned that people are saying that the garbage truck is taking the recyclables along with

the garbage. Mr. DeRisi said he has not had any complaints about that recently, but understands that on rare occasions the garbage truck will pick up both. All American Waste has a camera on all of their trucks and computer records of every stop.

Mr. DeRisi said calls for repair of trash cans now goes to Mr. Maio instead of to him, leaving him more time for other duties. Someone mentioned a new trash container at Skiff and Whitney. Mr. Morin said he will do some small pick ups of bulk items people have put out in his neighborhood. Someone called Mr. DeRisi today about getting someone to pick up a sofa and love seat. Because of Covid, charities are not picking up. The furniture can either be brought to the transfer station or to a non profit. There was discussion on having a list of vetted local contractors that would pick up unwanted items.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned one company that puts collection boxes at schools and will pay the school 5cents a pound for the contents. Ms. DeRisi's company Urban Miners focuses on building materials. He also mentioned that Hamden received an open space grant to purchase property to add to Brooksvale Park, but the building on the property has to be removed. There is a RFP out for a tear down.

There was discussion on the Clean & Green Commission's Mission Statement. Commissioners should look at it on the Clean & Green Commission's page on the Town's website. We need to get everyone on the same page.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that Saturday afternoon, April 24th is the pick up date for the reduced price composters. Perhaps members of the Commission could be there for informational purposes. Possibly the labeled buckets for food waste can be distributed that day. The window for ordering the composters has not opened yet. The South Central Regional Council of Governments is running the composter program. Residents can purchase a \$100 composter for \$55. The pails would be four gallon pails with a label telling residents how to use it.

Ms. Matin asked about Earth Day. Mr. DeRisi said it would have to be virtual, and we would have to start now, so we are not planning to do it. .

Mr. DeRisi said there is a page on the Town's website Hamden.com/compost and he is thinking about adding an Earth Day page with virtual sponsors and tables. He also mentioned that the for April 24th pick up, perhaps we could add a cleanup to the paths connecting to Town Center Park and the Middle School.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

6. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____