

HAMDEN CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN & GREEN

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, via Zoom. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Endriss, Ms. O'Neil, Mr. Morin, Ms. Matin, Ms. Irwin, Mr. Machado

Commissioners Excused: Mr. Jordan, Ms Simmons

Others in Attendance: Mr. DeRisi, Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator, Ms. Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order
2. Ms. Endriss called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Introduction of new member Anika Matin

Commissioners welcomed Ms. Matin to the Commission and introductions were made.

2. Review minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting
Tabled to May meeting.

3. Old Business

4. New Business

Ms. Endriss announced that HazWaste Central is temporarily closed. They are guessing they will open at the end of May. She has been talking to Mr. DeRisi, and they feel it will be inundated once it opens. It will be required that patrons register on line prior to arriving at the site. She will keep in touch with HazWaste Central to make sure they have some workable plans in place. Ms. O'Neil mentioned that it will be up to HazWaste to get the word out. Mr. DeRisi said that the RWA is waiting until they have it all figured out. They have been trying for the last few years to have people register on line, but because of the virus they want to make on line registration mandatory.

There was discussion on whether Commissioners would prefer to meet online or in person once the Government Center reopens to the public. Dave Morin said online is okay, but he would prefer to meet in person. Ms. Endriss and others agreed.

Ms. O'Neil announced her move to Phoenix sometime toward the end of May, and will no longer be able to serve on the Commission after that date. She said there are several things she would like to pass on to other Commissioners. One of the items is communication methods, and we need a new Facebook administrator. Ms. Matin will be the Commission's new communications person. Ms. Endriss said she hopes Mr. Morin will be our lead clean up person. Mr. Morin agreed.

Ms. O'Neil set up a Clean & Green gmail account – hamdencleanandgreen@gmail.com. She suggested auto forward as an easy way to have all Commissioners on board.

Regarding outreach, Ms. O'Neil said Hamden Plains Friends wants to have a Clean & Green

representative speak to their group, probably in June, about blight and litter in their district. Ms. Machado will be the contact with Mr. Cronan.

Mr. Machado would like to have at least one picker to use when he is out walking. Ms. O'Neil will provide a picker to Mr. Machado at a time to be determined. A socially distanced cleanup was discussed. Mr. Morin will store the pickers and gloves. Ms. O'Neil mentioned that Chris Swidersky will probably sign up for a position on the Commission and will probably sign up for the cleanups.

There was discussion on complaint reporting. See Click Fix is a good tool. Mr. DeRisi said he and Public Works get all blight and recycling related calls. Al Mayo works part time and is the Town's litter enforcement agent.

Ms. Endriss will follow the new gmail account.

There was discussion on outreach and social distancing and getting our residents engaged. People could bring along a bag when they are out walking. We need some safety tips due to the medial waste, masks and gloves, that are currently being found on the ground and in the store parking lots. Ms. Matin has some information that she will provide.

Mr. Morin asked if the Commission is allowed to collect any donations. Ms. Tobin will check with the Town Attorney. He mentioned that one business brought out drinks etc. while the group was doing a cleanup.

Mr. Morin also mentioned the free newspapers that are all over the street and are delivered in plastic bags. Ms. Irwin said we probably need a legal approach.

Mr. Morin asked what is the minimum age that we should be using for volunteers. Ms. Endriss feels 16ish unless anyone younger has parental supervision. Ms. Endriss mentioned the house where Commissioners did a yard cleanup. Mr. Morin said he will check to see if the lawn needs mowing. This was a real success story for the Commission.

There was discussion on using five gallon tubs for cleanups instead of bags. Ms. Endriss said if we have Mr. Morin to deliver the trash to the transfer station, we can do that, otherwise, if Public Works has to pick it up, we have to use bags. There was also discussion on using damaged Town recycle/trash bins. Mr. DeRisi mentioned that used bins are considered a health hazard.

There was discussion on trash and recycling containers and replacement parts. Mr. DeRisi has prepared a budget for these items. He mentioned that he is currently out of the larger recycling containers and has been giving people the smaller size ones to hold them over.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that the pink bag system for collection of used clothing and other fabric items is on temporary hold.

Mr. Morin asked if at the next public cleanup, when it becomes safe, can we invite the Mayor and other public officials for a photo op. Commissioners felt that it would be a great idea.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that Earth Day had to be canceled because of Covid-19, but we had sponsors

that donated money and over 60 exhibitors that signed up. Should we return their money, hold it for next year, or keep it and purchase compost bins. Ms. Matin can help with access to the web site and connection to various links. A representative from DEEP was planning to make a presentation on recycling, "What's In – What's Out." Mr. DeRisi said perhaps we can get her video onto our Earth Day Page. Mr. Machado asked if we could hold Earth Day in the fall? Mr. DeRisi said possibly. Ms. Endriss suggested we could shift all activities to outside. Mr. Machado suggested we could plant trees on the Town Green. Mr. Machado volunteered to be the tree coordinator and he will contact Tom Parlapiano, the chairman of the Tree Commission.

Ms. Endriss mentioned that she has a Girl Scout Cookie connection in Hamden who will deliver and will also accept donations to bring to Smilow.

Ms. Matin asked if Commissioners could talk to the grocery stores asking them if they can place a trash bin near the cart corals, where people seem to be dropping gloves and masks. Commissioners felt she could speak to the store managers as a member of the Commission.

Ms. Matin said she saw some biodegradable gloves on aAazon, but they are only sold to businesses.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Endriss made a motion to adjourn. Ms. O'Neil seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: _____