

# Technology Commission

Hamden, Connecticut

Thursday, June 3, 2021

This meeting was held via Zoom.

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*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions if prompted:*

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/Rwx8wuBv0v8f\\_9kaxyRNHO\\_aCD25gkQR9YdjNTqy0hB3gkZAFvIc\\_v3g09TQSxnkN.P6t-rRLq4u\\_7Emrx](https://zoom.us/rec/share/Rwx8wuBv0v8f_9kaxyRNHO_aCD25gkQR9YdjNTqy0hB3gkZAFvIc_v3g09TQSxnkN.P6t-rRLq4u_7Emrx)

*If prompted for a password, enter: 0AV!UtAw*

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## Call to Order

Mr. Beard called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

## Commission Members

Gary Beard - *Commission Chair*

Phil Cronan

Daniel Dunn

## Others in Attendance

Alyssa Bussard – *Commission Clerk*

Ryan Keeler - *Clerk in Training*

Nora Grace-Flood - *Freelance Reporter, New Haven Independent*

## Agenda

Approval of May 6, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Beard called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 6, 2021. Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Cronan. The motion passed unanimously.

## Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no comments put forth by the public.

## Old Business

### 1. Town Website

Mr. Cronan reported that he is working with a member of the Tree Commission to edit a form regarding tree planting for town residents. The forms would be featured on the town website and would assist in working toward all forms available on the website being consistent.

## New Business

### 1. Technology Commission Mission Statement

Mr. Dunn spoke regarding the commission's mission statement. Mr. Dunn believes that the current mission statement is not in line with what the commission actually does. There was a discussion regarding revising the mission statement and how to move forward with determining the actual role of the commission. Mr. Cronan brought up the important point that there is a disconnect between the Technology Commission and the Town IT Department. That disconnect is not conducive to efficient business by the town or commission.

Mr. Dunn will create a working document for the commission to submit changes or edits to the mission statement.

Mr. Beard will check with the Town Clerk regarding who needs to approve the changes of the mission statement. He will also reach out to the Mayor regarding setting up a meeting regarding the specific role and duties of the Technology Commission.

## 2. Policy Regarding Use of Surveillance Technology by the Town

Mr. Dunn brought up the need to provide “ethical technological oversight” to the town. For example, there is a situation where the town Police Department was testing facial recognition software. This was brought to the attention of the public through an article on BuzzFeed published in April 2021. As far as Mr. Dunn can tell, there was no other indication made regarding this software being used in Hamden. There was no discussion regarding what the software does, the consequences, what faces are being analyzed, from where the data comes, etc. In short, there was no transparency. Though the commission can not approve or disapprove the use of such technology, there should still be transparency regarding its use so that the public can be made aware of the implications.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to craft a recommendation to the Legislative Council regarding a Municipal Ordinance that requires the public to be informed when surveillance technology is used. This motion was seconded by Phil and all were in favor.

## Adjournment

Mr. Beard requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cronan made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Dunn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2021 at 7pm and will be held via Zoom. Agenda and log-in information is forthcoming.