

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN & GREEN

Informal Notes: The Clean & Green Commission held a Regular Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020.

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Hennessey, Ms. Endriss, Ms. Irwin, Mr. Jordan

Commissioners Excused: Mr. Morin, Mr. Machado

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Matin, Mr. Swidersky

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

The following issues were discussed:

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. without a quorum. New Member Judy Hennessey was welcomed and introduced.

2. Review minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting

Review minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting

Informal notes of June 15, 2020 meeting

Review minutes of July 2020 meeting

Informal Notes of September 21, 2020

The minutes were tabled to the October Meeting.

3. Old Business

Ms. Endriss explained that the Commission has not done cleanups recently because of Covid. Mr. DeRisi said this is leading us to talk about textile recycling, composting etc. Mr. DeRisi is now working out of the transfer station and his 19 hours are on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

4. New Business

Mr. DeRisi and Ms. Endriss spoke earlier and they are thinking we should plan for Earth Day. This has always been a huge event. Ms. Endriss said this year should be interesting and will probably be a remote or on line event.

The subject of there being no bulk trash pick up this year was discussed. If people put out bulk, we can give them suggestions on where to get rid of their items. Saturday hours have been reinstated at the Transfer Station at 231 Wintergreen Avenue, New Haven.

HazWaste collection ends next week and will reopen in the spring. Ms. Endriss explained how Commissioners used to volunteer at HazWaste, but we are not doing it this year because of the virus. Ms. Endriss explained that the functions of the Clean & Green Commission and the Solid Waste

and Recycling Commission are similar. We try to work with other commissions if possible.

There was discussion on the pink bag textile recycling. Mr. DeRisi said this is trending down. Sometimes the pink bags do not get picked up. People from apartments and condominiums do not get this service. When you put out a pink bag, they drop off another one. Mr. DeRisi can give people one if they call him. We struggle as to how to get information out to the public. Mr. DeRisi and Ms. Matin can post on the Commission's Facebook page. Mr. DeRisi recently created two press releases. He ran them by Craig and Patrick but has not heard back.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that the Transfer Station needs new equipment and there is FEMA money to help. Ms. Endriss suggested we should try to do something about the pink bags at a location, such as giving them out at the Transfer Station.

Mr. DeRisi mentioned that CDEEP has a pretty good video on composting. We should do some kind of event for Earth Day. SCROG (The South Central Regional Council of Governments) has a program where you can get \$100 composters for \$50. We should encourage people to home compost. 20% of municipal solid waste is food, and costs towns \$1 million per year. Mr. DeRisi mentioned a service called Peels and Wheels, that has a few customers in Southern Hamden. They collect on bicycles and the compost goes to a New Haven farm site. He is not sure where the food waste collection at Bear Path School stands. Ms. Irwin gave Mr. DeRisi the contact information for Bear Path School.

Ms. Endriss said perhaps we could have an Earth Day session on composting at the transfer station or at Bear Path School. Mr. DeRisi mentioned back yard composting and said there is a video on building your own composter with pallets. He also mentioned money that was contributed for Earth Day last year that wasn't used. Perhaps we could use that money to purchase composters. Ms. Hennessey asked how many people want to compost. Mr. DeRisi said we could send out a survey to determine that. Ms. Endriss mentioned that Ms. Matin is our social media person and knows the most about technology.

There was discussion on possible grants. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT have grant programs. Kathleen Schomaker runs Sustainable CT in Hamden out of the Economic Development Office. Ms. Tobin mentioned a grant writer that used to be located in Economic Development who is now located at the Keefe Center.

Ms. Endriss said our homework is to try to think of ways to communicate with Town residents and to educate ourselves about composting food waste.

Mr. DeRisi asked if anyone was interested learning about the Transfer Station on Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. You can reach Mr. DeRisi at 203 287-7021 or jderisi@hamden.com. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by: _____