

# CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

*OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN & GREEN*

**Minutes: The Clean & Green Commission held a Regular Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020.**

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Morin, Ms. Endriss, Ms. Irwin, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Hennessy

Commissioners absent: Ms. Matin, Mr. Swidersky

Others in Attendance: Mr. DeRisi, Ms. Tobin

## 1. Call to Order

Ms. Endriss called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She thanked Mr. Jordan for the work he has done at the Bear Path Trail. Mr. Jordan said he is half way through. There are lots of blow downs and he encountered one across the trail. He and his friend will return to the trail with chain saws either at the end of this week, or if not, the following week.

Ms. Endriss said it looks like we have two Facebook accounts, and the photos Mr. Jordan sent are one one site but not the other.

Ms. Endriss also mentioned that there is a hearing regarding the solar installation on Gaylord Mountain Road. The 2:30 hearing does not allow public comment, but the 6:30 one does.

## 2. Review minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting

Review minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting

Review minutes of July 2020 meeting

Informal Notes of October 19, 2020

Informal notes do not need to be voted on but attached for your information.

**Mr. Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor. Ms. Hennessy abstained.**

**Mr. Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor. Ms. Hennessy abstained.**

**Mr. Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor. Ms. Hennessy abstained.**

Ms. Endriss wondered about the recycling centers and bottles with deposits. She stopped in at Stop & Shop and Shop Rite where there were people waiting in lines to dispose of their bottles and cans. Mr. Derisive mentioned that people can drop off at the Transfer Station. Bob at the Transfer Station suggested capturing the deposit bottles and donating them to a non-profit.

Mr. DeRisi brought up the subject of the pink bags. We need to keep getting the word out about the pink bags for textile disposal. In 2019 we averaged 6700 pounds per month, and in 2020 it has dropped to 2596 per month. The pandemic probably has some effect. It has also affected the staff. If people report to Mr. DeRisi that their pink bag has not been picked up, he reports to the company and they send someone out. Ms. Irwin mentioned using emails to add to what the Mayor sends out. Mr. DeRisi mentioned that there is an email list on the Town's website that people can sign up to receive emails. Mr. DeRisi did two draft press releases for the pink bag collection. He ran them by Mr. Cesare, sent them to Mr. Donnelly, who told him to send them to Ms. Martindale who would send it out. Commissioners can report to Mr. DeRisi if we see some that have not been picked up. Ms. Irwin asked when they should be put out. Mr. DeRisi replied they should be put out with the blue recycling bins every other week. The Town was earning a penny per pound until the pandemic started. The Company advised that they would be unable to pay at that point. We also have a bin for pink bag collection at the Transfer Station.

Mr. DeRisi said part of his job is doing educational things. Fortunately for him, the trash/recycle bin responsibility has been turned over to Mr. Maio, which gives him more time to work on that. Ms. Irwin mentioned that we should readdress the penny per pound when the pandemic is over.

Regarding grants, Mr. DeRisi wondered how do we know we aren't competing with other Town Departments if we apply for grants. There was discussion on the grant writer that previously worked out of the Economic Development Office and was then working out of the Keefe Center. Ms. Tobin suggested Mr. DeRisi call Mr. Sendroff to determine if that is still the case.

Ms. Endriss brought up the subject of Earth Day and wondered if the Commission wanted to focus on one big idea, such as composting. Mr. DeRisi mentioned that this is what he would like to do and the Solid Waste and Recycling Commission is behind us. We can do the program with SCROG to purchase composters (100) and those who purchase can pick them up at a date and location to be announced, in March. We should start the promotion two months in advance, in January. 80 gallon composters can be purchased for \$55 dollars that normally would sell for \$100. If you have friends and/or family that live in other towns, they can participate. Mr. DeRisi has a bullet page that he will send out. Ms. Endriss will contact Ms. Matin about publicity on Social Media. Ms. Irwin asked if an administrator can be added to the Facebook page. Mr. Morin said he can add an administrator. There is information in the information Mr. DeRisi sent out, in the middle of the fourth page. Ms. Endriss mentioned that she gets a lot of traffic on Next Door Digest. Ms. Irwin suggested a link to our page be on our website. She also asked Mr. DeRisi if he used Google Drive. It would be a good way to review documents on line. Mr. DeRisi does not currently use Google Drive. He mentioned various sites that our information can be posted on. This program is sponsored by SCROG. Branford is also participating.

"Food Waste Reduction" can be a cost savings to the Town. If each household in Hamden can remove 2.8 pounds of food waste from their trash each week, the town would save \$100,000 in tipping fees.

There was a suggestion that Mayor Leng to a composting video.

Regarding the food recovery program started at Bear Path School, Mr. DeRisi participated in a telephone conference call with Pam Roach and representatives from West Haven, Madison and

Milford. West Haven has a pilot food scrap program. The Bear Path program is on hold because of the pandemic.

Ms. Endriss mentioned a tie in to the Orchid Award. She mentioned that Tommy Kaye's installed solar on their building.

There was discussion on the used toner cartridges showing up in the Mayor's Office at Government Center. He isn't sure what to do about them. Ms. Tobin mentioned that a teacher from the Middle School used to come in and pick them up in large green trash bags. Apparently she sent them back and used the funds to benefit a non profit. Ms. Tobin didn't recall which one. Apparently she doesn't pick them up any longer. Perhaps the Town would get some benefit from returning them. There was further discussion.

3. Old Business

4. New Business

Approval of proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Morin made a motion to approve the proposed 2021 meeting schedule. Ms. Irwin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Adjournment

**Ms. Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jordan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_