

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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IN NEWINGTON, CT

2020 FEB 19 AM 9:38

  
Town Clerk

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.
2. Roll Call- Members present: Joyce Boncal, Patty Foley, Jay Slater, Mark Seims, Joe Trombetta  
Staff present: Robert Hillman Andrew Armstrong
3. Nomination of Chairperson-  
  
Chairperson- Commissioner Boncal nominated commissioner Foley for chairperson and was second by commissioner Trombetta. The motion past with all in favor.
4. Election of Officers  
  
Vice Chairperson- Commissioner Slater nominate commissioner Siems and was second by commissioner Trombetta. The motion passed with all in favor  
  
Secretary- Commissioner Slater nominated commissioner Boncal and was second by commissioner Siems. The motion passed all in favor.
5. Approval of minutes-  
  
Approved no changes
6. Public Participation-  
  
None
7. New Business-
  - A. Verify commission members contact information- The chairperson asked all commission members to verify their contact information on the hand out that was circulated. No changes.
  - B. Rules to follow- Tabled until next meeting.
  - C. 2020 Meeting schedule- The chairperson reviewed the upcoming schedule for 2020. No comments.

Sustainable CT- Andrew Armstrong (Asst. Town Planner) gave a brief overview of Sustainable CT Municipal Certification program:

  - Town council passed a resolution to enter into the program on 12/10/19
  - Andrew will be the point of contact for the program
  - The town council established the EQC to serve as the sustainability team
  - Meeting are required to be held quarterly for the sustainability team
  - Andrew mentioned we need to get the community actively involved

Andrew then turned the meeting over to Jessica LeClair of Sustainable CT for a PowerPoint presentation. Jessica passed out some literature that explained the mission statement of Sustainable CT as well as how the program works. It is a statewide program offered to all municipalities that recognizes the municipalities for promoting a thriving resilient community in which municipalities can achieve bronze or silver

certification. One hundred towns have signed onto the program to date. Towns are required to get points in each of the ten action categories to be considered for the bronze or silver certification.

Time line for certification is April 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 for spring certification and August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 for fall certification. If certification is not achieved at either date feedback will be given to make revisions for the next certification cycle.

Sustainable CT offers a 3 part equity series in which coaches can assist with certification. Commissioner Siems asked if the series was available digitally, at this point it is not. Also in the summer Sustainable CT offers a 10 week CT fellowship program in which fellows can assist in finding points towns may already have earned.

Commissioner Slater asked if Andrew could give monthly reports on the progress. Jessica mentioned commission members can be given access to the application online to review the progression.

Councilor Budrejko recommended reaching out to other commissions for assistance.

Karen Serio asked about the viability of a solar garden.

Commissioner Seims said he would reach out to the Environmental Science Academy if the commission agreed. All were in favor.

Commissioner Boncal commented the community garden may meet the requirements of section 4.3

D. Challenge to reduce garbage one pound per week

Commissioner Foley posts the towns waste and recycling tonnages on Facebook challenging residents to reduce trash. Also she mentioned the Facebook page Buy Nothing Newington which is a social media based swap shop.

E. Facebook page – Keep Newington litter free

Commissioner Foley thanked previous commission members for creating the page and mentioned commissioner Slater would be taking over administering the page.

F. Earth Day- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> the commission discussed holding the event on the April 25<sup>th</sup>. Trying not to conflict with little league opening day and boy scouts. Patti posts the past years posters on Facebook on a regular basis to keep residents involved. Commissioner Slater wanted to thank the former commission members for all their past efforts.

8. Public Participation-

None

9. Commissioner comments-

Commissioner Foley commented on the following:

Inquired about funding for a paper shred event which would check off a box for Sustainable CT.

Plan of Conservation Development public meeting February 26<sup>th</sup>

March 30<sup>th</sup> Recycling 101

July 18<sup>th</sup> EQC booth at the extravaganza intends to invite the conservation commission to join.

Potential booth at the Waterfall festival.

Commissioner Seims asked if the fishing derby was still held by P&R as it may be an option for Sustainable CT. To the commissions knowledge it is no longer held.

Commissioner Boncal asked how we could extend Sustainable CT to a more local level with the residents such as a gold star sticker for backyard composting.

Commissioner Slater recommended putting a subcommittee together for the Earth Day event.

10. Adjournment-

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Assistant Highway Superintendent