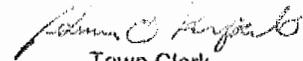


ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

2022 APR 12 AM 8:47

Town of Newington, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022


Town Clerk

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Commissioners present: Joyce Boncal, Patty Foley, Karen Serio, and Joe Trombetta.
Absent: Jean Kappes
Town Council Liaisons: Mitch Page, Gail Budrejko
Staff present: Robert Hillman

3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Approval of minutes-

September 9th meeting minutes approved as amended. Added to 7c "verify whether the education is eligible for earning points." to the last sentence. Motion by commissioner Boncal second commissioner Serio, all in favor

October 21st special meeting minutes approved as amended. In section 7a first sentence removed the word "met" after Foley. Motion by Boncal, second by commissioner Trombetta, all in favor.

December 9th meeting minutes approved. Motion by Boncal, second by commissioner Trombetta, all in favor.

5. Approval of Agenda- No changes

6. Public Participation- None

7. Old Business-

A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley mentioned the worksheet has been updated with new items

B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley said both pages have added a few more followers. The chairperson mentioned she had to do some housekeeping on the site as some posts were not related to the page's topics. Commissioner Serio volunteered to be an administrator of the page to assist the chair.

C. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal updated the commission on the start date which will be April 12th. Applications are due June 1st and the contest ends on June 12th. She mentioned last year's sponsor will not be able to donate prize money for this year's contest. Chairperson Foley has offered to donate \$100 to for the cause. Boncal also commented there will be three categories this year and will need \$300 for the prizes. Boncal asked if the commission would vote to approve the use of \$200 from the

commission's budget. The Chair said she would reach out to some other businesses for donations and report back next meeting. Councilor Budrejko recommended reducing the prizes from \$100 to \$50. The commission will decide after The Chair reports back with her findings on donations. Boncal has rented the Parks and Rec sign on Main St from April 10-16 to advertise the contest. She still needs to update posters and have them printed, Serio and Trombetta have volunteered to put up the posters as they did last year. Councilor Budrejko will help if available. The Town Clerk will assist with the newsflash and Boncal will reach out the Rare Reminder to advertise the contest.

- D. Positions open on Commission/ update types of members. The Chairperson said she hopes to have the topic on the March town council agenda to remove the two industry seats and have all seven members from the public.
 - E. Litter pick up citizen group- Comm Serio- No major updates. Serio mentioned the organizer rotates location between Churchill Park, Volunteer Park and Mill Pond Park. Trash is weighed after every event and prizes are given. She anticipates the events to start up again in April.
8. Sanitation Department update- Mr. Hillman discussed the tri-town RFP (Wethersfield, Rocky Hill & Newington) for trash and recycling disposal. There were 3 respondents that fit the requirements. The three towns met with the three respondents for a Q&A. A recommendation was made to council on March 8th and he hopes a decision will be made at the March 22nd meeting. The town will most likely be breaking away from MIRA and enter into a new agreement with one of the RFP respondents. The town looks to save significant money by leaving MIRA and entering into a new agreement with either CWPM or MRR.
9. New Business-
- A. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- None
 - B. School Poster/Essay Contest- Earth Day- Invest in our Planet- Serio recommended to hold the event in the fall as not to compete with the upcycling contest. Councilor Budrejko also mentioned the Waterfall Festival may be back this year which is usually held in September. Serio mentioned October 1st is Energy Efficiency day and October 24th is International Day of Climate Action. Possibly one of those days would work. Commission will decide on whether it will be an essay contest, poster or both.
10. Public Participation- Councilor Budrejko mentioned to Mr. Hillman while walking through Newington Junction she noticed a large pile of trash and litter and asked who to contact to have it cleaned up. Mr. Hillman responded the highway department would address it.

11. Commissioner Comments-

Commissioner Boncal commented she would like to see the commission have a booth at the Waterfall Festival as was done at the Extravaganza years ago. Councilor Budrejko discussed what the commissions did in regards to posters and games for the event. The Chair agreed it would be a great idea to have a booth.

12. Staff Comments- none

13. Council Liaison comments- none

14. Next regular meeting- Scheduled for April 14th, 2022

15. Adjournment- Motion made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m., seconded by Commissioner Trombetta passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Highway Superintendent