

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Town of Newington, Connecticut

Special Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021

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Town Clerk

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chairperson Foley.
2. Roll Call- Commissioners present: Joyce Boncal,, Karen Serio, and Joe Trombetta and Chairperson Patty Foley
Town Council Liaisons: Chris Miner present, Gail Budrejko absent
Staff: Robert Hillman absent and Renata Bertotti absent
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of minutes-Special Meeting Minutes June 17, 2021, Commissioner Boncal #6A change "are points" should be "our points"; "capable of commenting" should be capable of committing"; #6C change "said the overall" and should be "said that overall"; 2nd page under #6D was "not received a response form" should be "not received a response from"; #6D was "regrading her email" should be "regarding her email", #9 "thought out" should be "throughout". Motion made to accept minutes with these changes and passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda- the Chairperson stated no additional items may be added to the agenda this evening as this is a special meeting.
6. Public Participation- None
7. Old Business-
 - A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley met with the Mayor DelBuono, Town Manager Chapman, School Superintendent Dr. Brummett and Deputy Mayor Budrejko. She and the Town Planner, Renata Bertotti discussed Sustainable CT on July 8th. Chairperson Foley mentioned the difficulties in accomplishing the certification with the Commission heading up the tasks with staff and the amount of time needed to fulfill the requirements. Discussion brought up the possibility to hire a consultant to assist with the process. Currently Planner Bertotti has someone in mind and will reach out to them. The Chairperson also clarified during that meeting Sustainable CT is not a state run agency but a volunteer organizations and achieving certification is not a requirement.
 - B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley said the page added a few more followers and thanked Commissioners Serio and Boncal for posting Upcycling information.
 - C. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal commented on the contest ceremony that was held on June 28th in the Council Chambers. She thanked the Town Clerk for the zoom access and our Chairperson for posting it to NCTV. Each participant received a

participation certificate and the two winners each received a gift card for \$100. She thanked Mil-Aero Solutions for donating the gift cards, the Rare Reminder for publishing and article about the contest, our commission members, Scott Hoagland from the town's IT department and the Town Clerk for their assistance through the process.

The PDF files of the entries will be posted to the town's website.

Commissioner Boncal asked for assistance with storing the 4x8 advertisement sign and the Town Clerk offered to store it in the Town Clerk's vault.

There was a discussion as to whether or not to hold the contest next year and commissioners agreed to have it next year would be a great idea. The Chairperson will put it on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss and possibility to add another category such as students.

The Chairperson stated Commissioner Boncal put forth a tremendous effort to accomplish the contest and gave a heartfelt thank you.

Commissioner Serio congratulated Commissioner Boncal and thanked NCTV for recording the ceremony.

Commissioner Trombetta stated what a great job Commissioner Boncal had done and heard those that were involved had a great time.

D. Positions open on Commission- Chairperson Foley stated how important it is to have a fifth member so if one member is absent there will still be a quorum when four commissioners attend. She asked that the Commissioners reach out those they know to get them involved.

E. Girl Scouts- no updates

F. School Poster Contest- The Chairperson will reach out the Superintendent of Schools to see if the contest is a go sometime in September. At this point school will be back in session fully on August 28th. There was a discussion to include essay option as well as a poster contest. Commissioner Serio liked the idea. The Chairperson reminded everyone this is a grade level contest and will send the information to schools in September for them to distribute to the students. Commissioner Serio reminded everyone the theme is "Restore our Earth".

8. Sanitation Department update- Mr. Hillman forwarded information to the Chair that Simple Recycling has not resumed collection as they work through revamping their scheduling and collection process. Once he has an update it will be posted. The Chair recommended Mr. Hillman post the information to the website along with other options for the recycling of textiles in the interim. The yearend [June 30th] trash and recycling amounts were not available at the time of the meeting and neither where the mattress recycling numbers.

9. New Business-

A. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- Nothing to report

10. Public Participation- None

11. Commissioner Comments-

Commissioner Trombetta said we are moving in the right direction and we need to keep everyone updated on the commission's progress.

Commissioner Boncal is looking for paperwork on how to get credit for attending seminars for Sustainable CT. The Chairperson will receive Commissioner Boncal's information. She is looking forward to the results of the meeting.

Commissioner Serio thanked Commissioner Foley for meeting with the Town Manager and School Superintendent.

Chairperson Foley is hoping to find someone to run the Sustainable CT program and asked for information on the mattress recycling program for condominiums. Serio will reach out to Mr. Hillman.

12. Staff Comments-

Mr. Hillman – None

Mrs. Bertotti- None

13. Next regular meeting- Scheduled for August 12th at 6:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment- Motion made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Trombetta passed unanimously.

Special Note: Town Clerk- Discussed the options for the formats of the future meetings, hybrid, in person, and virtual. He commented on the different challenges of each option and the awaiting of final regulations as to municipal meetings. Towns will have the option to run meetings in these formats until April 30, 2022 at that point new guidelines will be set forth for the holding of meetings.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman
Highway Superintendent