

2021 SEP -7 AM 11:51

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Town of Newington, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021


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
Town Council Liaisons: Chris Miner absent, Gail Budrejko arrived 6:37, left 7:16
Staff: Robert Hillman present and Renata Bertotti excused
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of minutes- Commissioner Boncal suggested the following corrections:

7c added "and Senior Citizens" to the end of the fourth paragraph. Motion made to accept minutes with changes and passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda- No changes
6. Public Participation- None
7. Old Business-
 - A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley said there are no updates from her meeting with the Town Manager, Town Planner, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Town Planner solicited requests for consultants to assist with completing Sustainable CT and received two responses. One of the respondents was too expensive and was unfamiliar with Newington. The other was a reviewer for Sustainable CT so that would be a conflict of interest.
 - B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley said the business page added a few more followers and is up to 138 and there are 233 on the group side. The Chairperson posted an alert from DEEP regarding their request to temporarily remove bird feeders and bird baths due to a highly contagious disease that is affecting birds
 - C. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal made a motion to have the 2022 Upcycling Contest beginning April 12 and closing June 12th. Commissioner Serio asked the commission to take Earth Day April 22nd in consideration when scheduling the contest. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Boncal has stored the 4x8 advertisement sign in the Town Clerk's vault and thanked the clerk for his assistance.

Commissioner Boncal also shared a spreadsheet with the Chairperson detailing how the town could possibly earn 10 pts for the contest under section 8.1. The chairperson stated you can only earn 5 points for the event and an additional 1 point for subsequent events. The chairperson said she would review the spreadsheet and get back to the commission.

Commissioner Boncal also mentioned she has attended multiple seminars and asked if they are eligible for receiving points. The chairperson responded at this point the town can no longer earn points for commission members attending seminars. The town could possibly earn points for having employees attend seminars.

Commissioner Boncal notified the commission she sent a thank you letter to Mil- Aero for the \$200 donation to the contest.

D. Positions open on Commission- No update

E. Girl Scouts- No update

F. School Poster Contest- The Chairperson has pulled out the files from the previous contests and hopes to get something to the Commission this weekend.

8. Sanitation Department update- Mr. Hillman discussed the Mattress Recycling program and stated in the first 10 weeks the Town has recycled approximately 300 units totally 8 tons. He also discussed the new fees associated with the bulk program stating it is \$25 per stop for two items and there is an additional cost of \$35 for a mattress and \$35 for a box spring.

Simple Recycling- also known as the "pink bag" program: Mr. Hillman discussed the bags will no longer be picked up curbside on the recycling day. Residents must now schedule a pick up on the Simple Recycling website using the calendar provided on the site. Pink bags will no longer be provided. Items must be left in bags or boxes by the front door by 7:30 am on the day they have scheduled.

9. New Business-

A. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- The chairperson discussed two items that were brought to her attention by Commissioner Boncal. The first being a webinar on August 26th from 10am- 11:30am on composting and removing food from the waste stream. The Chairperson will send out the link. The second is a recorded series put together by the library and the Chamber of Commerce being shown on August 18th, September 9th and October 6th regarding diversity, equity and inclusion.

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 forward to the results of the Town Planners search for a consultant to assist with Sustainable CT and is concerned if no consultants are found.

Commissioner Serio- attended a litter clean up at Clem Lemire Park in which they collected 13 pounds of trash.

12. Staff Comments-

Mr. Hillman – None

Mrs. Bertotti- N/A

13. Next regular meeting- Scheduled for September 9th at 6:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment- Motion made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Serio, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Highway Superintendent