

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**

**Town of Newington, Connecticut**

Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2020

2020 NOV 16 PM 12:46

  
Town Clerk

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Commissioners present: Joyce Boncal, Patty Foley, Karen Serio, and Joe Trombetta  
Town Council Liaisons: present Councilor Gail Budrejko and Councilor Chris Miner  
Staff present: Robert Hillman
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of minutes- Motion by Commissioner Boncal to accept the minutes as presented ,  
seconded by Commissioner Serio and approved unanimously.
5. Public Participation- None
6. Old Business-
  - A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley commented that deadline for the August submittal is July 31, 2021.
  - B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley mentioned there are two pages to the Facebook page the corporate page and the group page. She suggested that if any Commissioner has comments on recycling or Sustainable CT to please share on the page.
  - C. Challenge to reduce garbage- Sustainable CT 7.5- Chairperson Foley commented the commission needs to come up with a plan for reducing garbage by one pound per week.
  - D. Upcycling Contest- Chairperson Foley explained how points are earned for events under section 7.1 of Sustainable CT. A video created by commissioner Boncal was shown. The video is designed to recruit volunteers for a committee to assist with the Upcycling contest. The video, once completed will run on NCTV 24-7. Councilor Budrejko and Commissioner Serio commented the video is a good start but the message needs to be clearer. The video is a work in progress chairperson Foley and commissioner Boncal will continue to work on it.
  - E. Positions open on Commission- Chairperson Foley thanked the Town Clerk for forwarding the ordinance forming the Commission and the background information on the commission. She also discussed how hazardous waste is now handled by different organizations and the need to have a representative on the Commission may not be needed. Councilor Budrejko and the Town Clerk explained the steps needed to change the Commission's ordinance to add or remove a representative. Councilor Miner discussed how DEEP handles most hazardous waste incidents and the Fire Marshall

handles fuel tanks and other hazardous chemicals at private facilities in town. Chairperson Foley was pleased to announce all UST's on town property have been removed. She also asked Councilor Miner if the CERT team had any participation in hazardous incidents. Councilor Miner did not believe so but mentioned they are managed by Meghan Manke the town's emergency manager.

7. New Business-

- A. Girl Scouts- A local Girl Scout troop reached out to Chairperson Foley regarding the commission's assistance in helping them earn their silver award. The deadline has been extended to the spring so the request has been tabled in the interim.
- B. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- Chairperson Foley discussed Freecamp.com and how it could assist with fulfilling certain Sustainable CT's requirements. Commissioner Boncal discussed PSA's and using NCTV and other outlets and had a few ideas in which the chairperson asked her to share via email.
- C. Town Balf Committee annual meeting- Commissioner Boncal attended and reported "Since the quarry is operating within health limits there is little the town can do regarding complaints". Councilor Miner stated the quarry operates under federal guidelines and continually meets the federal standards. He also mentioned the only leverage the town would have is when the TPZ issues the permit to the quarry. DEEP has been requested to test the quality of the air outside the quarry and has found no violations. Councilor Budrejko commented maybe there needs to be better communications between the CCHD, the town and Balf.

8. Public Participation- None

9. Commissioner comments-

Chairperson Foley mentioned the new Town Planner will be the town's point of contact for Sustainable CT

Commissioner Serio said she has not yet reached out to the condominiums regarding recycling. She also likes that the chairperson keeps the commission focused and thanked Joyce for going to the Balf Annual Committee meeting.

Commissioner Boncal said she would continue to work on the video and the PSA's

Commissioner Trombetta commented he was pleased the commission was moving along considering the circumstances.

Councilor Budrejko stated she was happy the new Town Planner will be involved with Sustainable CT.

10. Staff comments-

Mr. Hillman stated it was nice to see the Commission continuing to move forward.

11. Adjournment- Next regular meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 6:30 p.m. **Motion** made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Trombetta, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Assistant Highway Superintendent