

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Town of Newington, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2022

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Town Clerk

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:38 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- Motion by Commissioner Boncal to approve the March 10th meeting minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Trombetta, passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda- No changes
6. Public Participation- None
7. Old Business-
 - A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley discussed the upcoming equity workshops and reminded commission members who will be attending to coordinate with the chairperson so the town can earn points. Cutoff date for current application for CT sustainable is August – workshops after this date are more advantages for getting points. Workshop is 3 half days.
 - B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley reported business page Think Before you toll has 190 followers, group page Keep Newington Litter Free is at 237 members. She has coordinated with Commissioner Serio to begin weekly postings, such as “what is in – what is not” to get residents engaged.
 - C. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal reminded the commissioners the start date is April 12th. Closing date for applications is June 1st and submittals of pictures are due June 12th. The advertising sign is up in front of CVS, the town website has the rules and applications posted, posters have been hung at local shops. Commissioner Boncal announced this year’s sponsors, Mill Arrow, CT Panthers, and Patty Foley.

Commissioner Serio asked if there is a timetable for voting and the ceremony.
Commissioner Boncal said that is still in the planning stage.

Commissioner Boncal thanked the Town Clerk for his assistance in updating the posters and sign.

The Chairperson Foley will add the poster to NCTV and Facebook pages.

D. Positions open on Commission/ update types of members. The Chairperson Foley thanked the Town Council liaisons for their assistance in getting the item on the council agenda.

The next step will be a Public Hearing for the public to comment. Chairperson Foley will send out reminder to the commissioners when it will be on the council agenda.

E. Litter pick up citizen group- Commissioner Serio- indicated that it will begin later this month.

8. Sanitation Department update- Mr. Hillman discussed the tri-town RFP (Wethersfield, Rocky Hill & Newington) for trash and recycling disposal. The Town Council approved the proposal from MRR for trash and recycling disposal. This agreement only affects the disposal facility and is not associated with the collection process. When this process begins, all garbage will be transported out of state and go to landfills, recycling will be going to Berlin and sorted there.

He also reported the town has recycled 1,153 mattresses/box springs since July 1, 2022 equaling 21 tons.

9. New Business-

A. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- None

B. Events-

1. School Poster/Essay Contest- Earth Day- Invest in our Planet- Commissioner Serio will move forward with planning the event in September/October

2. Extravaganza- The chairperson has reached out the Parks and Recreation department to reserve a booth at the event. The event will be held the third Saturday in July. Commissioner Boncal will submit an idea for Climate Change to be presented at the event.

3. Waterfall Festival- to be held the last Saturday in September. The commission intends to have a booth at the event.

10. Public Participation- None

11. Commissioner Comments-

Commissioner Boncal thanked the commission members who helped hang signs for the Upcycling Contest.

Commissioner Serio will look for other locations to hang the posters.

Chairperson Foley thanks the businesses that were willing to hang the posters. She also mentioned the Goodwill Store will be closing the end of the month leaving Salvation Army and Savers as the only two second hand store left in Town of Newington

12. Staff Comments- Mr. Hillman mentioned it was a great idea Commissioner Serio and Chairman Foley will be posting weekly items on the Facebook page.

13. Council Liaison comments- Council Budrejko recommended hanging photos of the Upcycling contest winners' submissions at the Extravaganza and Waterfall Festival.
14. Next regular meeting- Scheduled May 12th, 2022 at 6:30 pm.
15. Adjournment- Motion made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m., seconded by Commissioner Trombetta and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Highway Superintendent