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Town Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Town of Newington, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Commissioners present: Joyce Boncal, Patty Foley, Karen Serio, and Joe Trombetta
Town Council Liaisons: Gail Budrejko and Chris Miner
Staff present: Robert Hillman
Absent-excused: Renata Berotti, Town Planner
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of minutes- Minutes to be approved at the next meeting
5. Public Participation- None
6. Old Business-
 - A. Sustainable CT- Chairperson Foley reminded the commission of the deadline which is July 31st, 2021. She also mentioned the Town Planner met with the Superintendent of schools and the science director to discuss projects the students may be able to do to earn points for equity and diversity.

The Town Planner intends to meet with the CT Coalition to end Homelessness, the Senior Center and Human Services to discuss potential items to address. The planner will also reach out to CRCOG to discuss transit oriented development.

The chairperson discussed C-PACE and Green Bank in which businesses have the opportunity to apply for low interest loans for energy saving projects. This may assist in earning points for 2.6.1. The town may also be able to earn points for 2.6.3 for two companies that have already utilized CPACE.

Chairperson Foley will be planning a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss Green Bank.

Commissioner Serio is continuing to work on finalizing the contact list for the condominiums in town. There are two remaining in which she needs to confirm.

- B. Facebook- Chairperson Foley mentioned the business page has 114 followers and the group page has 221. She is pleased with the engagement of the followers.
- C. Challenge to reduce garbage- Sustainable CT 7.5- will address in 7. C. below

D. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal has put together a timeline for the contest and submitted to the chairperson. She stated the commission is behind schedule as the letter to Lowes requesting donations of gift cards has not gone out. Foley will look into the letter. Boncal hoped to advertise on the parks and recreation billboard in the center of town but does not have the material to meet the requirements. The chairperson will see if NCTV has the materials.

Boncal will continue to work on advertisements for NCTV, newspapers and posters.

Scott Hoagland from the town's IT department will work with the commission on setting up a landing page for the contest. The Town Clerk has been in contact with Scott about the needs of the commission for the website.

E. Positions open on Commission- No discussion

F. Girl Scouts- The chairperson will be attending the troop's meeting at the end of February to discuss the project which will focus on proper ways to recycle

7. New Business-

A. Communications/ Education on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling- No discussion

B. School poster contest- Earth Day is April 22, 2021- the Chairperson mentioned the commission will not earn points for the event but would like to continue with the poster contest if any other commissioners are willing to take the lead.

Commissioner Serio said she would like to keep the contest going as it has in the past. Commissioner Trombetta has agreed to assist Serio.

C. Talk to the Mayor Show- The chairperson was a guest on the Talk to the Mayor show in early February to discuss Sustainable CT and the actions the town needs to complete to earn points to be certified. She also spoke on the Upcycling contest.

D. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) - The chairperson mentioned the POCD is which was approved in August of 2020. There is a chapter on sustainability and resiliency which includes policies and strategies that may assist the commission with earning points for Sustainable CT. There was also a discussion about alternative energy such as solar arrays at town buildings.

8. Public Participation- the Town Clerk notified the commission the EQC page has been updated.

9. Commissioner Comments-

Commissioner Trombetta commented he was pleased the commission was moving along progressing

Commissioner Boncal said she would continue to work on the advertisements for the Upcycling contest

Commissioner Serio is appreciative of what the commission is doing.

Chairperson Foley mentioned she would be attending a council meeting in the near future to update them on the commission's progress. She hopes to invite the chairperson from TPZ to a meeting to discuss the POCD

10. Staff Comments-

Mr. Hillman discussed he is continuing to work on implementing the mattress recycling program.

Councilor Minor said he was happy with the commission's progress and looks forward to reducing trash.

Councilor Budrejko asked if Commissioner Boncal had received any communications from volunteers as a resident had reached out to the councilor looking to volunteer. Commissioner Boncal stated someone had but was not sure it would work out. Councilor Budrejko also said she would be willing to help with disseminating literature on the contest.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Assistant Highway Superintendent