

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**

**Town of Newington, Connecticut**

Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2022

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Town Clerk

1. The regular meeting was held using Zoom platform and was called to order at 6:43 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Commissioners present: Joyce Boncal, Patty Foley, Karen Serio, and Joe Trombetta.  
Commissioner Absent: Jean Kappes  
Town Council Liaisons: Mitch Page, Gail Budrejko  
Staff present: Robert Hillman Superintendent Highway & Sanitation; Renata Bertotti, Town Planner
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of minutes- Month of May - Tabled until next meeting
5. Approval of Agenda- No Changes
6. Public Participation- None
7. Old Business-
  - A. Sustainable CT- The Town Planner informed the Commission there may be a student who is currently working with Sustainable CT that may be able to assist the town with its certification. She recommended to set up a meeting between a few commission members, the student and herself.  
Chairperson Foley said she may have a consultant that is interested in assisting with the certification. The Planner asked if Chairperson Foley could look into what the cost might be for the consultant.
  - B. Facebook- Commissioner Serio reported the Keep Newington Litter free page is up 10 subscribers to 254. The Think Before You Toss Page has remained at 190.  
Commissioner Serio has begun posting on Tuesday What's In What's Out and is pleased with the amount of people being engaged. Commissioner Serio is working on information for town news to be posted on Thursdays. The Chairperson said she has some ideas and Mr Hillman mentioned he could have some ideas from what is accepted at the Transfer Station.  
  
Commissioner Serio asked the Chairperson if it would be possible to sunset the Think Before You Toss page as it does not seem to be growing and may be redundant. The Chairperson will look into it.
  - C. Positions open on commission / update type of members: Chairperson Foley updated the commission saying the process is almost complete. There has been sufficient time

between the public notice and public hearing and at the next Town Council meeting they should be ready to appoint the new Commissioners

D. Litter pick up citizen group- Commissioner Serio mentioned the possible dates to begin the events are June 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>.

E. Events

1. Upcycling Contest- Commissioner Boncal said she was somewhat disappointed as with only a few days left in the contest there are only two entrants. She feels the low turnout may be due to people returning to work the high cost of fuel, leaving little money for projects.

Chairperson Foley asked if they should put a hold on the contest and Commissioner Boncal felt it would not be fair to the two current entrants.

2. School poster/essay contest- The chairperson is still looking for a few more items and soon will reach out to the school administrators to discuss the contest

3. Waterfall- The Chairperson thanked the commissioners for choosing one event to be involved in this fall. Chairperson would like to have a game such as the commission did years ago at the Extravaganza in which children picked items out of a kiddie pool they thought were or were not recyclable.

8. Sanitation Department update- Mr. Hillman reported the transition from MIRA to MRR will begin July 1, 2022 and has a meet and greet with MRR on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Foley asked Mr Hillman to post the Hazardous Waste dates for all MDC on the town website.

9. New Business-

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

B. Balf Quarry report- Commissioner Boncal reported the CCHD will be placing an air quality monitor in the area of Connecticut Ave and Hartford Ave. Barabara Gugliotti of the CCHD will inform the Commissioner Boncal when it is in place. Chairperson Foley hoped the commission would receive a report when the monitoring was concluded.

10. Public Participation- None

11. Commissioner Comments-is

Commissioner Boncal is looking forward to the assistance from Sustainable CT and what the student has to offer.

Commissioner Serio asked what other items aside from food waste could be removed from the waste stream to lower MSW. Mr Hillman commented vegetation such as sticks leaves and grass would be beneficial to be removed from the waste stream.

12. Staff Comments- none

13. Council Liaison comments- Councilor Budrejko mentioned she had three questions/comments. She noticed yard waste containers in the Town of West Hartford

and asked Mr Hillman to look into such collection for Newington. Commissioner Serio mentioned it is also done in Bristol and residents pay to utilize the service.

Secondly she asked if recycling containers could be put out at town events as in the past. Mr. Hillman said he would coordinate with the parks department.

Lastly she inquired what could be done with deterring the geese from Mill pond. Mr Hillman mentioned the parks department is working on options. Commissioner Serio said her complex just did a relocation of geese and would find look into the specifics.

14. Next regular meeting- Scheduled July 14th 2022 at 6:30 pm We will meet via Zoom until further notice
15. Adjournment- Motion made by Commissioner Boncal to adjourn the meeting at 7:34p.m., seconded by Commissioner Serio and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hillman

Highway Superintendent