

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
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PAUL MUNIZ
CHAIRMAN

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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019 - 7:45 PM
CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
APPROVED

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Chairman Muniz, M Barbour, J. Brown, and J. Rollo and First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove

Absent: R. Lasky and A. St Thomas

- Chairman Muniz called the meeting of the Solid Waste Management Commission to order at 8:04 p.m. M. Barbour made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Solid Waste Management Commission meeting held February 13th, 2019. J. Brown seconded. The motion carried; J. Rollo abstained.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Muniz stated that the Solid Waste Management Commission will participate in a search for a new Solid Waste Supervisor/ Recycling Coordinator as Supervisor McGowan had resigned his position. Chairman Muniz reported he had met with First Selectman J. Cosgrove to discuss options for a replacement and met with Supervisor McGowan before he left to discuss tasks that need to be done, and groups that need to be met with; they also discussed long-term projects that the department has been undertaking.
- Chairman Muniz indicated that departure of the Solid Waste Supervisor provides the opportunity to modify the position; he stated in an open discussion, the implications of the resignation and potential options for replacement, at which point First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove joined the meeting. The First Selectman stated in the interim, tasks were being managed and monitored. He stated Public Works and the Department of Solid Waste and Recycling had in the past worked as two separate departments, with some areas where the departments "did not mesh." What is most concerning, the First Selectman stated, is the "horizontal structure" of several departments, including Engineering that limits some of the accountability, efficiencies and collaboration that should be occurring within these departments. He stated it is an opportune time to create the collaboration that could streamline and make more efficient projects, such as securing permits or testing, required of various departments. Chairman Muniz replied that as noted, he had met with Supervisor McGowan before his departure, to gain a clear understanding of the department's ongoing projects, immediate issues and the location of the corresponding documents. Chairman Muniz stated the opportunity now exists to look at the labor, and hourly manpower management responsibilities of the Solid Waste Supervisor position at the Transfer Station, and break off those functions of the position now, leaving the compliance and regulatory responsibilities, and thereby re-establishing the Solid Waste Supervisor as a part time position. Chairman Muniz pointed out that with the modification of the position, the Solid Waste Management Commission would be able to circle back to its original mission of representing the interest of the taxpayers and residents with respect to curbside collection and recycling, and maintaining value for the town with the Solid Waste and Recycling Department's various collection contracts, while advising the Solid Waste Supervisor utilizing each commission member's business acumen. He agreed with the First Selectman in his vision of perpetuating the collaboration with, and efficiencies of the Engineering, Public Works, Building and Solid Waste and Recycling Departments. Chairman Muniz offered to meet with the First Selectman to further discuss specifics of the Solid Waste Supervisor's responsibilities he gathered through discussions with Supervisor McGowan, and further explore the alternative of setting the parameters of the Solid Waste Supervisor as a part-time position, with his/her concentration on compliance and regulatory responsibilities.

- First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove noted to the commission members improvement of the Transfer Station site in terms of its proximity to the Animal Shelter and maximizing the space afforded each entity is currently being reviewed. He said there have been discussions about the inefficient flow of traffic through shared entrance to the two departments, and improvement in terms of space efficiency of the main parking/traffic areas in front and in back of the Transfer Station buildings. Efforts in this regard he noted, could, and should, improve the quality of storm water runoff as well.
- A discussion took place surrounding the First Selectman's observation regarding the mixed recyclables found at the Transfer Station, specifically mixed cardboard and newspaper. Chairman Muniz stated that at present, "staying away from single stream is all we can do until the infrastructures are in place." The entire recycling program and its growth town-wide would be an important consideration in terms of reworking the space at the Transfer station Chairman Muniz noted. He also stated the "Pay As You Throw" program should be reinitiated once a Solid Waste Supervisor/point person is in place. The Chairman stated the next regularly scheduled Haz Waste Central collection is scheduled for June 22nd, 2019.

Chairman Muniz stated the next regularly scheduled SWMC meeting will be June 12, 2019. J. Rollo made a motion to adjourn. M. Barbour seconded. Chairman Muniz adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Capezzone, Secretary