



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
Solid Waste & Recycling Commission
Minutes

Hamden Government
Center
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Regular Meeting

7:00 PM, September 9, 2026

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1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairperson Alice Kosowky called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. ATTENDANCE

- Present: Commissioners Shenira Billups, Eben Pariser, and Theresa Allgood, Alice Kosowsky (Chair), and Joe DeRisi, Recycling coordinator.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- Chairperson Alice Kosowsky introduced a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, and was seconded by Commissioner Theresa Allgood. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(if recommended by the town attorney)

- No need for Executive Session

7. REPORTS

- Another clothing swap coming up on the 26th?

- Brooksvale Park Swap, part of the Fall Fest will take place at 11 AM-4 PM on September 26. Best Video will also have a clothing swap on the same day at 10 AM-12 PM, and the leftover clothes from Best Video will be brought to the Brooksvale Park event.
- Upcoming meeting with Public Works

8. OLD BUSINESS

1. Swaps

- Staffing and scheduling for the first clothing swap taking place in the southern part of town, this Thursday, Sept 10, 2026.

2. Proposal to the Mayor's Office.

- A proposal and proof of concept on food waste, yard and leaf composting at the transfer station is to be submitted to the Mayor's Office.

3. Public Education Campaign

- Education campaign to inform and inspire people to action.
- Five points to be presented in a series of infographics and posters, along with a podcast on each of the five points

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A DPR and tire collection plan would translate into a \$30K/year saving.
- Addressing the glitch at the transfer station as it relates to mattresses (In 2022, we recycled 75% of mattresses that came into the transfer station. However, in 2025, we only recycled 17% of what came in)
- Responding to the challenge of curbside mattresses. (In 2022, 1200 mattresses were placed curbside. In 2025, it was 1208, and it costs \$33.50 to throw one out). Not throwing out the bulk of mattresses left at curbside would represent another potential \$36K in savings.
- A potential mattress recovery program could save the town an additional \$36K-\$40K and could save around 30 tons from our waste stream.
- Composting is a future Commission priority. We should embrace it
- Joe will present a proposal to the Mayor exploring two paths: Domingo's peels and wheels public private partnership (PPP) loan to build a capacious in-vessel container at transfer stations, or Eben's revenue-neutral idea as long as water, pad, and electricity are provided.

- Textile: Textile is being addressed with three swaps. The current swaps aren't as high as the previous ones, but they still fall within the top 4 months (3500–4000 pounds of textile).
- The need to fix the roof at the barn to allow it to serve as a semi-permanent clothing swap space.
- Bulk pick up: Much more complicated, but there is potential to explore ideas such as the Mansfield reconstruction Center. Other towns have a shop where you can bring furniture in a swapping program. A swap shop is a great idea, but would require management.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Alice Kosowsky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM.
- Commissioner Eben Pariser seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- (https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/vS27BbpS69tWw6Hn0Ch71eUJXi426cu3titeGqYJZQCuBW8GsfEVZ9PyBCqtmnNn.YT_xoo-UZXA4ZSok?startTime=1788994190000&pwd=DAWGXqw9m2f8J6bzagAAIAAAABvY-00_eKwZ_J8v4VI0vgGWV6p8yRGoWx7IyzWsQtKCKVrhgX3f2qdyMDRNGcPpdzAwMDAwNA)