

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission
Minutes for October 17, 2024

Attendees: Commissioner Nancy Barnes, Commissioner Tom Elder, Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Sharon Morris, Commissioner Myrna Candriea (online), Commissioner Kendall Bakick

Commissioner Elder called the meeting to order (4:05)

Attendees: David Reynolds, Town Manager,

Commission's 2025 Budget Recommendation Updates

- City Council did not approve the request to use funds for neighborhood grants - town has tried something like this and it's not effective - They recommend we promote clean up days
- The Parks department doesn't want the compostable bags because people may leave the bag of poo on the ground and not pick it up.
- Additional idea from New Castle town staff -
- **Composting program** - Evergreen composting is now available to residents; could we use the funds to jump start the program - first 50 people to sign up get 1st 6 months free; \$132 per person - for first six months - \$1,320 for 10 people?
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Leland moved that we budget as an Earth Day Drawing for 10 people - 6 months of Evergreen Service. Commissioner Barnes seconded Approved Unanimous - Refer back to city council
- **Expanding town clean up day to include Paint Recycling** - town now does not accept paint; CEC could contact Habitat for Humanity; paint collection day and recycle; - Check their website & find out costs and contact person -
 - **Action Item:** Commissioner Barnes volunteered to research and report back to the council via Mindy.
- Add another town clean up day - requires staff overtime - \$15,000 - 17,000.
- Yard waste clean up - requires public works and parks - problem of not being sustainable after the first year.
- River clean up day - organize volunteers to clean up the river.
- **Wildfire collaborative** - 22 organizations from Glenwood to Colbran are conducting a study of high risk fire areas; pre and post wildfire mitigation - \$3,000 to fund the collaborative. They have identified mitigation needs (and Elk Creek is one area).
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Barnes moved to use the bag fee funds to fund the \$3,000 to the collaborative and specifically for mitigation activities in the Elk Creek high risk fire area. Commissioner Morris seconded. Votes passed unanimously.
- \$20,000 bag fee total
- \$750 for Containers for Chili cook-off (reimburse the town)

Fire Evaluation Plan

Town Administrator David Reynolds reported that information goes out in weekly e-news, quarterly newsletter, and new development does not change the evacuation plan. It's not just a wildfire evacuation plan - but all types of evacuation. The plan takes into account a variety of situations. They have secured grant funds and are prepared with signage when town evaluations happen. Sign placement and evaluation will vary based on the specific emergency situation. Depending on the situation, experts will direct residents as needed. Check out the town evaluation document for more information. They review it every year. It's not specific because the situation may change. Sign up for text messages from the town that will go out in emergency situations..

Earth Day

Saturday, April 26 - 11 - 3 is the current proposed timeframe. Commissioner Leland reserved Burning Mountain Park and has contacted all partners on the list. Some have responded already. Check with Adam about BLM. Commissioner Morris and Chairman Elder will co-manage Earth Day. Commissioner Leland will provide notes on how to set it up; Logistics to address include, how do we set it up - tables facing street or park? Do we need tents? What types of promotion will we do? Newsletter, flyers at City Market, posters around town, etc.

Winter Elements Screening

Action Item: Commissioner Barnes will look at the library room schedule for February and discuss with library staff to determine which days and times more people attend programs in the winter. The Commission will need to recruit speakers for the discussion after the film. We can also use this event to raise awareness of the town emergency evacuation plan.

Chili Cook-Off

Clean up volunteers can contact Kelly about volunteering - collect bowls the evening of and clean the next day. Mindy will reach out to Kelly about CEC Commissioners volunteering

Filling the Vacant Seat

Commissioner Anglemeyer resigned.

Action Item: Mindy will put up a notice on the website and put up a poster to advertise to fill the term - to 2028. Open for 3-4 weeks. Mindy will forward the notice to all Commissioners so we can forward to potential candidates.

Budget Updates (2024 - \$1,000) - Spend down at the end of December - decide on the rest of the budget on Dec. 19.

Action Item: Commissioner Leland will order and procure the Tent (\$125) and banner (\$250) - need to buy and store someplace

Action Item: Chairman Elder will check with Kelly about Be Earthwise t-shirts; need to locate the artwork for the t-shirt, Chairman Elder will check with Denise Shible about the artwork for the t-shirts - More large and extra large - whatever is left after the purchase of the tent and banner will be spent on t-shirts. T-shirts can be for Commissioners and volunteers to wear at events. (sell any)

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2 **Minutes for October**

3 **Motion:** Commissioner Barnes moved to accept the minutes for Oct. 2024. Commissioner
4 Leland seconded. Passed unanimously.
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6 **New Business**

7 Continue with what we have been doing.

8 Update on 2024 spend down and 2025 budget items listed above
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10 **Motion to Adjourn:** Commissioner Barnes moved to adjourn. Commissioner Morris seconded.
11 Passed unanimous.
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14 The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.
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16 Respectfully submitted,
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19 Commissioner Sharon Morris
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22 Commission Chair Tom Elder
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