

**New Castle Climate & Environment Commission 3**  
**Minutes for January 17, 2025**

**Attendees:** Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Myrna Candreia, Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Nancy Barnes

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Kendall Bakick

Commissioner Morris called the meeting to order at 4:07p.m.

- Commission candidate Julia Koch was present for the meeting. Commissioner Leland asked her to introduce herself.

**Honoring Chair Tom Elder**

- Commissioner Morris asked for a moment of silence to honor and reflect on the life of Chair Tom Elder, who recently passed away. After the moment of silence, commissioners expressed their admiration for Chair Elder's generosity, encouragement, and his deep commitment to the town of New Castle.
- The commission discussed honoring Chair Elder's memory and longtime commitment to the CEC.
- Motion: Commissioner Leland made a motion to plant a tree with an accompanying plaque in Chair Elder's honor in a local town park. Commissioner Candreia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Action item:**
  - Commissioner Candreia will contact the New Castle Parks and Rec department about the tree memorial.
  - Commissioner Leland will bring a framed photo of Chair Elder to display at Earth Day.

**Appoint Commission Chair**

- Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to appoint Commissioner Morris as the new CEC chair. Commissioner Barnes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appoint Commission Vice-Chair**

- Motion: Commissioner Barnes moved to appoint Commissioner Candreia as vice- chair. Chair Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appoint Commission Secretary**

- Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to appoint Commissioner Barnes as secretary. Chair Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Bag Fee Budget Proposal**

- Commissioner Leland reviewed the bag fee budget proposal. He noted that the town council approves of the commission's bag fee proposal.
- Motion: Commissioner Barnes moved to accept the budget as presented. Commissioner Candreia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Town Clerk Mindy Andis will post the finalized budget on the CEC's webpage.

## **Earth Day Update**

- The commission agreed to change the time of the Earth Day event to 10 am – 2 pm on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Chair Morris and Commissioner Barnes agreed to work on a sub-committee to finalize details for the event.

## **Elemental Film Screening**

- The film will be shown on Wednesday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the New Castle library.
- **Action item:**
  - Commissioner Barnes will reach out to suggested potential panelists and invite them to attend the event and speak on the panel about wildfire mitigation efforts.
  - Commissioner Barnes will email New Castle town staff about advertising the film event on the town's digital sign.
  - Town Clerk Mindy Andis will print 50 copies of the town's evacuation plan for distribution at the event.

## **Minutes for December**

- Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to accept, with changes, the minutes of the December 19, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Barnes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Commissioner Comments**

- Chair Morris asked CEC commission candidate Julia Koch if she had any questions after observing the meeting. Ms. Koch expressed her desire to learn more and interest in the position.

## **Update from GEC**

- Commissioner Leland reported that the GEC's grant for an EV charging station was unsuccessful.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner Nancy Barnes

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Commission Chair Sharon Morris