

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission

Minutes for May 15, 2025

Attendees: Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Myrna Candreia, Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Julia Koch, Commissioner Kendall Bakich, Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2025 Earth Day Debrief

- Strong vendor turnout and educational focus were well received. Vendors expressed interest in returning.
- 11am-2pm time frame worked well
- High attendance from families and children.
- Event was well-organized
- Suggestion: Add a large poster to the City Market sign next year
- Ideas for 2026:
 - Remind vendors about potential for wind.
 - Invite car dealerships with EV vehicles
 - Incorporate community art project,
 - Provide bilingual promotional materials
 - Add interactive activity: What did you learn? What change will you make?"

Earth Day Date, 2026

- Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to schedule Earth Day for April 25, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Candreia. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Local Shop Grants with Bag Fee Funds

- The commission reviewed the Triple R Grant draft application and provided feedback.
- Timeline:
 - Applications due July 31st
 - Review at August 21st CEC meeting
 - Funds spent by November 1st
- Grant Criteria:
 - Reduction in plastic use
 - Commitment to long-term sustainability
 - Business must be located within town boundaries
- Motion: Commissioner Barnes moved to accept the Triple R grant application with changes. Chair Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Summer Events

- CEC will host a booth at the Chamber Block party on June 13th, Burning Mountain Park. Commissioners Leland, Barnes, and Chair Morris will staff the booth.
- Plan to participate in Burning Mountain parade, Sept 13th, 10am.
- Final decisions to be made at the next meeting.

Updates Town Council

- Commissioner Leland shared that a new development near Kathryn Senor Elementary is being reviewed. The town is working to preserve trail access through the property.

Update Tom Elder Tree

- The tree planting ceremony was successful.
- The honorary plaque has arrived and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- A scholarship fund has been established in Tom's name at Coal Ridge High School.

Update Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers Trail Cleanup

- Commissioner Koch met with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers regarding a future trail cleanup project. A previous trail project was completed earlier than scheduled.
- Motion: Commissioner Koch moved to partner with RFOV on a future trail cleanup (date TBD), including a gear share and swap event on May 30 at the West Colorow Trailhead, with a \$500 donation. Seconded by Commissioner Candreaia. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes for April

- Motion: Commissioner Bakich moved to accept the April 17th minutes. Commissioner Candreaia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

- Chair Morris will send a proposed website revision document for review before the next meeting. She also praised the *New Castles of the World* newsletter and thanked the group for Earth Day photos.
- Commissioner Bakich suggested a presentation from the town planner on environmental measures and sustainable building at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Leland will present at the GEC meeting tomorrow to discuss the new energy code and New Castle's adoption of that code.
- Commissioner Candreaia discussed the need for enhanced communication from the Town.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris