

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission Minutes

March 19, 2026

Attendees: Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Ryan Deyarmond, Commissioner Julia Koch, and Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Reusable Dishes Purchase

Recreation Center Director Kelley Cox requested that the Commission purchase additional reusable plates, cups, and utensils for use at Town of New Castle events. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,200.

Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to approve the request using plastic bag fee funds. Commissioner Deyarmond seconded. Motion approved unanimously

Business Grant Update

No grant applications were received, and the deadline has passed. The Commission agreed to remove the deadline and keep the grant open.

Action: Commissioner Deyarmond will contact the Chamber to promote the business grant at the next Chamber After Hours event.

Community Recycle Guide

Commissioner Leland created a recycling guide, which will be printed and distributed at Earth Day. He will also ensure it is in an upcoming town newsletter.

Plastic Reduction Campaign

The new "Guardians of Nature" badges will serve as the core of the Commission's plastic reduction campaign, accompanied by a flyer with tips on reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Earth Day

Chair Morris created a flyer for the event. Eleven organizations have committed to participate. Chair Morris has developed a run of show and a vendor map and will recruit volunteers for specific tasks. Commissioner Barnes suggested incorporating a bingo card game with a prize and grand prize winner. The River Center is providing breakfast to Earth Day volunteers.

Action: Commissioner Barnes and Chair Morris will work on a grand prize idea. Chair Morris will ask Dave Reynolds for a staff representative at the Earth Day event to talk about water conservation rules.

Trail Clean-Up Day

Commissioner Koch confirmed that no financial contribution is required for the trail clean-up day.

Clean-Up Day Funding Consideration

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds asked the CEC to consider contributing funds to the town's clean-up day. The Commission will defer the decision on funding until the remaining balance of the plastic bag fee fund is determined.

Approval of February 19th Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to approve. Chair Morris seconded. Motion carried.

April 16th Meeting

Chair Morris will be absent. Vice-Chair Candreia will preside over the meeting. The April meeting will be the last meeting for both Commissioner Leland and Commissioner Candreia.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leland discussed the Silt RAFTA proposal and expressed opposition. He also made Michelle Huster an administrator of the Commission's Facebook account. New water conservation rules have been implemented, including additional restrictions for raw water users.

Commissioner Leland reminded the Commission of the importance of removing flammable materials from around homes for wildfire prevention and noted that new construction must use nonflammable materials.

Commissioner Deyarmond shared a potential connection with a muralist for the Commission's pollinator mural.

Commissioner Barnes discussed a potential wildfire programming grant opportunity.

Chair Morris reminded the Commission of upcoming vacancies and requested recommendations for new members.

Future Agenda Items

The Commission will discuss ideas for a pollinator mural, summer outreach at the town's community markets, and finalize Earth Day logistics at the May meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris

DRAFT