

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission

Minutes for June 19, 2025

Attendees: Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Myrna Candraia, Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Kendall Bakich, Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Guests: Rochelle Firth, Kevin Hansen

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Website Update Discussion

- Chair Morris and Commissioner Bakich presented proposed revisions to the CEC webpages. The revisions were reviewed by the commission and Rochelle Firth, Assistant to the Town Administrator
- Firth recommended eliminating many of the proposed links, using a standardized committee webpage template, and consolidating pages for consistency. She also reminded the group that all webpages must be ADA-compliant by July 2025.
- Proposed page structure: *About Us, Take Action, Wildfire Prevention, Programs*
- Suggested *About Us* content: Who We Are (with photo), Mission Statement, Message from the CEC, Commission and Town Actions
- Suggested *Programs* topics: Recycling, Composting, Landscaping, etc.

Action: Commissioners Bakich and Leland, along with Chair Morris will redline the current CEC homepage. Chair Morris will collect CEC photos from the group.

Chamber Summer Block Party Booth Report

- Commissioners Leland and Barnes, and Chair Morris staffed the booth, networked with local businesses, and promoted CEC initiatives. All water bottles were distributed.

Trail Work Day Discussion

- Commissioner Koch submitted a report on the recent trail work day.
- The CEC proposed holding a community trash pick-up day on **September 12**

Action: Commissioner Barnes will lead planning for the community trash pick-up event.

Triple-R Grant Application Discussion

- Kevin Hansen provided guidance on how to market the grant to Chamber members.
- Recommended changes to the application include:
 - Clarifying that funds come from the plastic bag fee
 - Noting the grant is reimbursable
 - Adding a checkbox to confirm the business is within town limits
 - Including CEC contact information
 - Adding the spending deadline
 - Creating a required report template for recipients

Action: Commissioner Leland will consult with Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers regarding fund usage and reporting requirements. Leland and Chair Morris will revise the application and develop an online form in both English and Spanish.

Approval of Minutes for May

- Motion: Commissioner Bakich moved to accept the May 15th minutes. Commissioner Candreia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Bakich noted that Snowmass is selling bearproof trash containers and suggested purchasing them for town use.
- Commissioner Candreia shared that MotherLode in Aspen has old bikes. She proposed a potential partnership with Defiance Cycles to refurbish and distribute them to kids.
- Chair Morris reported that Tom Elder's plaque has been installed at his memorial tree.
- Michelle Huster reported that one puzzle is still left from Earth Day.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris