

City of Shelton, Anti-Litter Committee  
Minutes for Meeting of April 23, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.  
Shelton City Hall, Auditorium

Page 1 of 6



Note: If you have questions regarding Litter Committee agenda or minutes,  
contact Conservation Agent Teresa Gallagher at 924-1555 x315

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**MINUTES FOR APRIL 23, 2008**

(All minutes are considered to be in DRAFT form until formally approved by the Anti-Litter Committee at the next meeting).

Chairman Gil Pastore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Members Present:

Gil Pastore, Chairman  
Lorraine Blohm  
Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Consultant  
Allison Menendez  
Audrey Nefores, Shelton High School Representative  
Ron Pilkowicz  
Jim Taradine  
Ingrid Waters  
Karin Tuke, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**On a motion made by Ron Pilkowicz seconded by Teresa Gallagher, it was unanimously voted to approve the 3/26/08 meeting minutes.**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Melissa Hart, Human Resources, TEST AMERICA, Long Hill Cross Road, Shelton, CT visited the Commission.**

Teresa Gallagher asked Melissa how she went about organizing the clean up effort at her company, Test America.

Ms. Hart relayed that as part of her own performance review, her director/supervisor suggested that she form a Go- Green Team and to try to kick it off by doing something for this year's upcoming Earth Day. She continued to say that in searching the Internet, she found the information on the web page for Shelton's Clean Sweep. It was perfect timing. She contacted the individual who signed up for the Long Hill Cross Roads, Ingrid Waters, to get more information.

Ms. Hart continued to say that she presented the information about Clean Sweep at her next Staff Meeting and everyone was very excited to take part in a clean up. There were about 35 people all together at the company who took part in it. They picked up litter on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> on Long Hill Cross Road from Forest Parkway to Bridgeport Avenue – less than a mile. They filled 53 large trash bags with garbage. At first she was concerned that there wouldn't be enough litter to pick up but there was so much behind the building in the woods.

Teresa commented that was what happened with the Land Trust clean up – they didn't cover as much ground as they had hoped to because they had so much garbage.

Gil mentioned that he drove through the area where Test America was located today and the area was spotless. They did a great job.

Teresa mentioned that she left a message at Test America for an individual who called about disposing of a dumped TV – she left a message with the number for Highways and Bridges. They should be coming to pick that up.

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Gil indicated that he's saved all the e-mails and pictures and tallies of how many trash bags the groups were collecting. After the Clean Sweep was over, he'd like to print something out.

Teresa added that she also maintains a book of forms (the form that's on the website) that have been filled out by groups that had planned events. After the events take place, she's been keeping a file with the pictures submitted by the different groups, like the girl scouts, land trust, etc. She plans to set up a Picasso Web Album that everyone can view. She'll scan in photos/information that weren't online.

Jim Taradine asked if the Mayor was receiving copies of any of these things – pictures and so forth.

Gil indicated that he forwarded the Mayor something today regarding the great effort by Test America.

Melissa Hart commented that she thought they could get more companies involved; maybe if letters went out next year before Earth Day. She said she would be willing to help with that. She thought it was a lot of fun for everyone at work to get outside of the office for a few hours and do something different.

Gil indicated that this was a newly formed committee and they weren't able to get that much going with the corporate involvement this year as they would have liked to. They've had many discussions about it and hope to have a lot more businesses on board for next year.

Ingrid commended Melissa and her Test America co-workers for their great efforts and hoped to have as much success later in the week as they continue to clean up Long Hill Cross Roads. She knew that her neighbors cared enough to clean their own properties and hoped that they would help out with picking up trash along the street near their homes. She distributed flyers to the neighbors and made sure they didn't blow away; however, she hadn't heard from anyone regarding the 9 a.m. Saturday clean-up.

Ron and Teresa commented that they hadn't heard back from anyone in their neighborhood either last year but people just showed up on clean up day. Audrey added that distributing the flyer will be a good reminder, if not a good motivator, to encourage them to clean up.

Teresa added that she thought many people really believed that it was the city's job to pick up the road and that's why they don't do it.

Gil asked Melissa about the type of trash that her clean up group picked up on Long Hill Crossroad – was it a lot of plastic, glass, cans, paper...?

Melissa responded that there seemed to be a lot of glass bottles – alcohol bottles and beer cans, soda cans and fast food paper trash.

Gil closed the Public Portion so they could discuss other plans for the Shelton Clean Sweep.

### **SHELTON CLEAN SWEEP**

With National Earth Day and the Shelton Clean Sweep successfully underway this week, Gil asked the other Committee members for their thoughts on where they should go from here. He commented that he thought the Shelton Clean Sweep was an overwhelming success for its first year with no funding. Gil indicated that he would like to prepare a pamphlet that he could present to the Board of Alderman by around the June timeframe that would include photographs, a description of the efforts and accomplishments of the Anti-Litter Committee and all the volunteers. It could include pictures of the groups that took part in clean ups, tallies of how much trash was

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picked up, etc. He'd like to include something about the Clean Sound event for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He asked everyone to save any e-mails with pictures or other information.

Gil commented again that he thought that they had huge success – he wasn't sure how they pulled it off but things worked out very well. He hoped that they'd get some financial support for next year's initiatives to turn this into more of a community-wide effort. He asked for the opinions of other Committee members.

Allison commented that she wanted to respond to Ingrid's concerns about motivating people in the community, in a nice way, to get involved because this was everyone's earth, it was everyone's world. She thought that perhaps the BOA would approve an appealing illustrative doorknob hanger requesting residents to help keep Shelton clean to motivate people.

Teresa mentioned that she's visited the Ridgefield, CT community to visit her parents and found that there was no litter there. She learned that the reason that they have no litter was because it was picked up regularly by volunteers, and through an Adopt-A-Street program that has signs posted. Everyone in the neighborhood pitches in and the pride in their neighborhood shows.

Allison added that she thought they should focus more on motivating people to take some pride in Shelton and encourage them to pick up. It needs to become a state of mind.

Lorraine indicated that she would like to see some banners next year similar to the big green Sikorsky Earth Day Banner that could be put in locations around town.

Melissa Hart suggested that business involvement could take place through e-mail for the upcoming year. She suggested that they contact company HR managers because HR was usually responsible for coordinating motivational employee events.

Gil commended Melissa again for the successful clean up at Test America.

Lorraine thought it would be a great example for other businesses if they could get it printed up in the newspaper. Especially because it's such a small company with 35 employees and it did such a great job. She added that the plans to go into the schools really fell between the cracks this year; they should plan to provide something that the elementary kids could bring home for their parents to read. That's where it starts – it starts in the home.

Melissa suggested the churches as a point of contact too. She mentioned that she was the youth group director at her church, the first Baptist Church in Shelton.

Audrey brought the committee up to date about the high school Green T's Clean Up Day this coming Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. She's arranged to have a sound system on the football field and some high school kids that have bands will be playing. They've blown up a map of the area and they've made a schedule. As people arrive, they'll section off different areas as they're being done. They plan on having a break sometime in between so that everyone can listen to some music and then go back to picking up the litter. She decided to have refreshments that were more like snacks than a lunch or dinner menu. Everything seems to be in place but she still needs to pick up some bags and gloves.

Gil went through the list of donated items from Bruegger's Bagels, Dunkin Donuts and gave the information to pick it up to Audrey for the high school clean up. He gave the Adam's Foodmart Gift Card donation to Audrey as well for anything else she needs.

Audrey shared with everyone that she attended some Earth Day celebrations in NYC over the weekend. She met a woman who gave her information about a Connecticut student community garden program. She planned to get more information to start a sub branch in Shelton. She knew that Teresa Gallagher worked with the Girl Scouts and thought she might be interested too.

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Teresa added that she has that in her Open Space Plan for Shelton. One of the conservation programs that she was recommending to the BOA for open space included information about community gardens.

Audrey thought that would be a great idea and she wanted to contact her to find out how she started the program, some of the basics, what she did with the kids, etc.

Gil mentioned that he spoke to John Toth from the Clean Sound Program. He's heard from a couple of companies that were sending groups down for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> clean-up. The first hundred volunteers would receive t-shirts. Gil said that John Toth told him to have people plan on working in the general area of Sunnyside and if they have people that were athletic enough to go on a boat, they would be working on that island by Sikorsky Aircraft. He said that the island was a catch basin for all kinds of litter. He's hoping to get a lot people out there to clean up that island. He asked Teresa if she had any volunteers for the South Bank area.

Teresa responded that she's recommended it to several groups but no one had taken her up on it; probably because of the liability of being near the water with the Girl Scouts. They require lifeguards for activities near the water now.

Gil said that he'll contact John Toth to tell him that area needs coverage – they were going to try to send people down there by vehicle from Sunnyside to clean up that area.

Audrey asked if this was something that she could bring her whole Green T's club go to.

Teresa said its 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. come any time – the earlier the better.

Ingrid asked Lorraine about the newspaper advertisements for this week. Lorraine responded that it was in the Spotlight and there was a nice editorial in the Huntington Herald today about environment and clean up. She said it's been in the Spotlight every week. She copied the list of the people who planned to do clean-ups and emailed that to the Huntington Herald over the weekend too.

Ingrid suggested that after the Clean Sweep was over, they should list all volunteers and the areas that they cleaned up. She added that it should be presented to the Board of Alderman. They need to know that there's a lot of concerned companies and citizens.

Gil indicated that he would like to make a presentation to the BOA around June with photographs and information about what they've done. He'd really like to see Test America be presented with something like a plaque.

Teresa stated that she wanted to talk about recognition for everybody, not just companies, but every scout group and every neighborhood group. She thought they could send a letter from the Committee or the Mayor's Office or something like that.

Allison thought just putting their names in the paper would be good.

Everyone thought a letter from the Mayor's Office would be the best recognition for those who volunteered for this year's Clean Sweep.

Teresa thought that they should move quickly with this before it's forgotten. She'd like to get a tally the total bags picked up; however, she didn't think she could do all of this herself. She needs to do work for her Conservation job, which was only part time. She indicated that the Litter Committee business was taking up a lot of her time with the phone calls, emails and website stuff. She hoped that they could set up some type of a system. She has a lot of information that she's been compiling about the groups that signed up for clean up activities. She wanted to call or

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email the participants, find out what they did, how well the events went, what they accomplished, etc. As soon as that was accomplished they could contact local newspapers with it but it has to be timely information so they would need to work quickly.

Before Audrey departed from the meeting, Gil asked her to keep a tally of the area cleaned up by the Shelton High School this weekend, and to count the number of participants and the number of trash bags filled up by the end of the day. Teresa mentioned that she should contact Highways and Bridges to pick up any bags.

Teresa wanted to focus on the entire process Clean Sweep effort upon its completion as an attempt to determine lessons learned for the next time. They could figure out what was good, what was bad, what could have been done differently.

Everyone agreed that they needed to think about what they would do next, over the summer months and prepare for next year.

Ingrid complimented Lorraine for her efforts with coordinating and communicating with the newspapers. Lorraine responded that she was very pleased with the generous coverage that they provided.

Teresa mentioned the Letter to the Editor from Edmond Cleary from last week. He mentioned the need to get people involved in cleaning up on an ongoing basis.

Lorraine asked how they could go about finding out the regulations for trash haulers. She had the unpleasant experience of driving behind an truck with an open top full of trash that was flying out all over the road.

Jim responded that he thought that was probably controlled by State regulations, not local but they could ask the Police Chief. Uncovered trucks were something the police could be involved in because it's against the law. He wasn't certain what the laws were on it.

Gil commented that he thought any truck carrying a load had to be covered during transportation, but that may be in regard to sand and gravel.

Jim mentioned that if they were seeing these trucks dropping debris on the roads, the police must have seen them at some time too.

Lorraine commented that they need to look into it and enforce it because she has seen it over and over again on the roadways. Additionally, she had some concerns about more than one open dumpster that she saw behind the establishments in Huntington Center right along the river. She asked if that was under cognizance of the Board of Health.

Teresa responded that those lids should be closed to keep animals out. There were storm water regulations as well, although she wasn't sure if they applied to the commercial establishments yet. She recalled that Wal-Mart had been cited at one time a few years ago because they had things exposed to the storm water and it violated storm water pollution prevention regulations.

Lorraine noted that the Parks and Rec had put trash barrels out on Nells Rock near L'Hermitage. Jim mentioned that the receptacles at White Hills were overflowing last week at the upper lots below the soccer field.

Gil commented that they need to add more trash cans there and at Capewell.

Lorraine indicated that she was waiting to hear from Aquarian. Aquarian has been waiting for the recyclable receptacle to come in. She plans to meet the CEO's Assistant there and at that time, she plans to ask her about the extensive littering situation on Isinglass Road because it's their

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property. Lorraine believes that Aquarion may not really know how large the area over there was because they were only planning to bring one trash barrel and one recyclable bin. She hopes that they'll see that more trash cans were needed in that area.

Teresa responded that she's received more than one e-mail from concerned residents in the Isinglass Road area that want to know if and when the area was going to be cleaned up.

Gil expressed his concerns that the area on Isinglass could become a dumping site as soon as people see a trash bin available in a remote area like that. He was hoping for the best; they had the Mayor's OK for Parks & Rec to pick up over there.

Gil mentioned to Teresa that while she was on vacation he had spoken to a gentleman doing community service who was trying to get 100 hours in picking up trash. It was very enlightening to speak to him because he mentioned that most of the garbage that he picks up was the alcohol bottles, plastic vodka bottles – with one location having about 50 of them dumped all over the ground.

Other Committee members commented that they had similar experiences while doing clean ups on other heavily traveled roads that had a large amount of empty alcohol bottles and cans (Nells Rock, Long Hill Cross Road, etc.). Lorraine suggested notifying the Police department if particular roads have so much high density liquor trash on the roadways.

Gil mentioned that he would be preparing the agenda for the next meeting and he planned to include compiling information about the Clean Sweep and preparing a presentation for the BOA.

Teresa wanted to pursue the Adopt-A-Street program concept and compile a list of streets in Shelton that cannot be cleaned up by volunteers due to safety issues. She indicated that it would be advantageous if they could find out about how much money was required to launch an Adopt-A-Street Programs in other towns to get a sense for how much funding it would require.

Lorraine wanted to find out about getting Litter Fine signs on Rt. 108 and Bridgeport Avenue.

Teresa responded that the State has to put those up and that could take a while to accomplish because the State moves very slowly on things like that.

Gil concluded the meeting by mentioning that he spoke to John Toth and told him to expect some additional volunteers. Lorraine suggested inviting him to an upcoming meeting because they could learn a lot from him about sponsorship, organizing a T-shirt campaign and event planning. Gil indicated that he would invite him to the meeting in June.

Lorraine suggested that they plan to do something for Shelton Day in October – a booth, a banner, or a hand-out. Gil added that John Toth would be helpful in suggesting how organize something like that.

Gil stated that he wanted to revisit the plan to make up some bumper stickers because that had been placed on the back burner due to the Clean Sweep. He'd like to do that over the summer months as part of the focus for Shelton Day. The next meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**On a motion made by Teresa Gallagher seconded by Allison Menendez, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Tuke

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