Minutes for Sustainability Team Special Meeting of April 5 2020 on Zoom.

Attending meeting: Selectperson Theresa Govert, First Selectperson Irene Haines, Greg Coleman, Edwina Trentham, Adam Bristol, David Oakes, George Willauer III, Kayle Lopez, Jim Ventres, Amalia Shaltiel

Meeting called to order by Theresa Govert at 7:04

First Selectperson Irene Haines thanked the Sustainability Team and expressed her support for the team and Theresa for taking this on and Jim Ventres for his knowledge and good information about what we already accomplished in town. She expressed the hope that we do substantial things for the town and is looking forward to future projects. She said she is there to support the team in any way she can and thanked members of the team for stepping up.

Theresa started a round of introduction: Why we are here?

Amalia – long term team member, interested in sustainable development, creating sustainable possibilities of living.

Edwina- the topic first in her heart. A lot to learn and will contribute what I can to make change in the world

Greg – Curious about what this will be. Improve and maintain the possibilities of connection with the natural world for those younger than me. Hoping to help the world around us and the people around us prosper well beyond our lifetime.

George – Mother is on Lyme Sustainability Committee

Adam – Grew up in town and came back. Help to bring sustainability to town to keep it the special place that it is.

Kayle – New to town. Born on Earth Day. Support the town and environment to make it more eco-friendly, doing my part for my children too.

Jim Ventres – History, the town has done a lot, but it has not been catalogued in this way. He knows where the information can be found.

David – Resident of East Haddam, grew up in the area. Has gone through the process of certification as Facility manager in Bristol 2018 Bronze 2020 Silver. Is here to lend his expertise. Bring knowledge, long experience with SustainableCT. Make East Haddam the best it can be for wife and children

Theresa – no experience with SustainableCT. We will lean on David for his knowledge and moving into action and Jim for cataloguing what we've done and engage with other stakeholders in the community. Selectwoman in town and on State level policy analyst for environment committee, planning and development committee and state appropriation committee and generally knows what support is coming to municipalities from the state level and other activities.

Theresa asked David to introduce Sustainabile CT:

David:

- Sustainble CT - A Road map for municipalities with certain action levels with categories within actions.
- Need to make points of contact, engage, gather information, consolidate and put into sustainableCT format and upload it.
- We will need to engage Fellows to help us with that process
- We will also need an assigned Equitiy coach from SustainableCT
- There is Equity training, focus on one action with the equity toolkit.
- We can also look at actions uploaded in other towns and employ them in our town.

Amalia:

- requested to share screen of 2022 action overview worksheet in sustainablect.org but it wasn't possible for technical reasons.
- The one required action - Optimize for equity – map the town and involve the town, all organizations and people, asking the community rather than top down.
- Urges to get certification this year because next year will require more points.

David responded that it is not so difficult. Gave examples of equity tool kit and importance of equity coach and help from SustainableCt.

Theresa talked about how many meetings we should have beyond the required 4 a year, and creating working groups. Asked David about his experience in Bristol. He responded that he was a one-person team and gathered all the information by himself.

Jim said that he hoped the fellow could help, as we are a small community completely understaffed. We need help to make it happen.

David agreed about the importance of public works, land use people in town and that the fellow would be key.

Amalia emphasized team work and responded to Jim's worry that we don't have to do all of it. Suggested we move to creating our administration and dividing tasks.

Theresa suggested that she stay as chair for administrative reasons though she has no time, and that Amalia can continue to spearhead the work and the whole team work together.

Amalia made a motion that Theresa be nomintated for chair. David Oakes seconded. Unanimous aye vote.

Theresa made a motion that Amalia be nominated for Secretary. Adam Bristol seconded. Unanimous aye vote.

Theresa started discussion about when we meet next. First Tuesday of the month for the next 3 months to start getting into the flow of things. Meetings will be on zoom.

She asked Amalia what she thought our next steps should be

Amalia responded that we need the passwords for the sustainablect.org site so we can start uploading completed actions on to it. We also need to talk with SustainableCT to get helpers. David said he will reach out to Jessica LeClaire. David will use equity training for both Bristol and for our group.

David asked who is our Administrator Theresa thought it was our first selectman. David continued that she would be our gatekeeper. But she can give us all status so we can upload actions.

Amalia asked who would join in equity training from the town Theresa Jim?

Jim suggested someone from BOE?

Discussion moved to list of tasks

David will attend equity training next Wednesday.

Amalia asked if other people from the group can join?

David thought we should keep it to three because there are only 35 seats. He mentioned that Summer and Fall sessions are also available.

Amalia asked if they were through zoom. And they are

David talked about other opportunities such as Coffee hours and suggested we check the website for events

Theresa said to send her an email if interested in attending.

Amalia spearheading key component, talk with Jess.

David, said the fellow will come from of River Cog

Theresa

- Explained that it is the (Council of Government) regional body that helps communities work together
- Check website and see what you would want to engage in.
- Mentioned Municipal composting program Blue Earth CT. If anyone is interested in becoming the point person for the team and town.

Amalia: Composting can give us points

David: We can apply equity tool kit to composting. Also, for recycling additional materials.

Annual report for solid waste can give us points.

Theresa: plan on meeting next first Tuesday.

Amalia: open to the rest of the group. Suggest team members look through actions and decide which actions we want to pursue. Which ones interest you. Meeting and connecting to organizations in town.

Greg: website overwhelming. Ask for email where to start in website.

Amalia: Will post those

Edwina: What is the purpose of the team in one sentence.

Amalia: The point is to create sustainable programs and approaches in town. Sustainable meaning that they are equitable and pro-environment and they creating a broad look of justice both for people and

the environment. A broad look on how to do it. The framework for a town to know how to create sustainable action. First part is a pat on the back of what we've done and then we see where more needs to be done. We are the water that lifts all the boats.

Theresa: A network of other communities to see how others have done it. Fellows and funding opportunities. The is of the team is what we are passionate about and we can engage community in that.

Amalia: Ask the community what they need. How to go about creating equitable conversation between the community and the town. How to reach people.

David: It's a road map, helps document what all the departments have done and how taxes have been used. Opens more doors. Community matching funds. Also a feather in your hat. Young families will come. Partnerships within community. Collaborative efforts with neighboring towns.

Theresa made motion to end meeting at 8:10