05/03/2022 Minutes for Sustainability Team Special Meeting

Meeting called to order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:02

Present Adam Bristol, George Willaur, Kayle Lopez, David Oakes, Amalia Shaltiel, Jim Ventres and Mary Dickerson and Jessica LeClaire form SustainableCT.org. Greg Coleman and Edwina Trentham were late because of power outages.

Approval of Agenda – motion to approve by David Oakes seconded by Kayle Lopez. Approved

Acceptance of Minutes- motion to approve by David Oakes, seconded by Kayle Lopez. Approved

Presentation by Jessica LeClaire, program manager at SustainableCT.org and Mary Dickerson, certification program manager.

High level overview of SustainableCT.org and how to navigate the website showing how to see other town's certification uploads, description of actions.

Sustainable Ct is a Statewide certification program with the goal of helping communities advance. 129 town passed resolutions to join the program. There are bronze and silver certification levels that last 3 years. Next year there will be gold and the actions will be adjusted. We are also piloting a climate leader designation.

We are looking at whatever makes a community whole – shows different ways to view what other communities have done. Example of certification reports. So, you can see what each town did. Sharing and learning from other towns. Flag valuable resource map of participating communities. Helpful, success stories helps thinking. Requirements low and flexible to fit different towns.

Only required action is Equity 1.1, a process of inclusion and engagement that can be applied to any action in the program, once for bronze 3 for silver. The majority of actions are looking for an outcome or product. Action 1.1 looking at the process outcome whatever the outcome. The description lays out all the steps for the equity toolkit process we go through. Identify who works in community. Connect with people who usually don't connect. Tell us what you learn. How do you use this? How did you work with them?

Example: Free Kayak for low income residents at event. Instead of this assumption connect with people and ask what would make a better experience? We don't know unless we ask. Using limited resources to make life better. Building community.

The requirement is one action in each category. 200 points for bronze 400 for silver. Next year the requirement will grow to more points. One can view actions as a spreadsheet or view the action descriptions themselves. There are 12 Categories plus optional innovative actions where a town can have two actions. In each category there are tons of actions and subactions – built in steps, rungs on a ladder.

An Example of implementing complete streets. One can see how it was done by different towns.

Most important in submitting actions: what to do and what to submit. Submit exactly what we said. More won't add credit, less will give you no credit. This enables us to clearly judge across towns. We will tell you what is missing. Look at success stories to see what it looks like.

Supports, funding, community matching funds for actions in the program. We have given more than 2 million. Anyone in town can be eligible for a community matching fund.

There are Sustainability team guidance hyperlinks to resources and video tutorials

Fellows - you will have an undergrad to help your town. He will know the program and can help with uploading and linkages and talking with people. It is a professional development experience for him. He will be here the first week of June.

Calendar and trainings library of recorded webinars can be used for credit

Questions and comments

Jim: has read for 2 years. Likes spread sheet can make notes find contact person and who the person we need to work with. Is a long haul, fill in the gaps all that we need to be.

Dickenson: In Portland we had a work group lunch group, we'd sit around and make progress. It brought everything together. Some other value - SustainableCT points helped in team building. Relationship between town officials and volunteers

Amalia: Excited and relying on David's former knowledge. Hope to get tutorial in entering actions

David: Look at Bristol application.

Amalia proposed getting together with David for a demonstration.

David: I've connected to Don Angezolla

Jim is working on outline of all worksheet and contacts on it

David: Will streamline the process as much as possible. Thank you, Jess and Mary,

Jess: consider us partners. We learn from you. We want to know what you like and don't like. Get to know you

Amalia: You are always welcome.

Mary: Our email and phone are the on website, any time you have a question call us.

Next order of business – Team reports.

George: Answered action question. Participated in first meeting with equity coach.

Kayle:

Point person for Composting initiative. Composting will start on May 16. There will be ads in paper and signs in local transfer station and buckets available at transfer station and at Linda's in the municipal building for $20. Kayle will do promotion. Talked with shagbark about

availability of supplies. Reached out to schools, senior center. Exchanged emails with local campgrounds in area. How are they dealing with their waste and how to help in composting? Will brainstorm with them. Not much to do till people start responding. Super excited.

Greg and Edwina joined meeting.

Questions to Kayle

David: wife is school nurse. Could she help?

Kayle: Has kids in the school system. Will be meeting with STEAM teacher on Thursday, meeting the kids to get kids involved. Get high school kids involved. Parents of children's friends.

Amalia: do you need help translating this to SustainableCT format.

David: Can we use the Equity tool kit on this,

Kayle: is having conversations, transportation problems to get waste to the transfer station. Get a feel how it will be utilized.

Interested in long term goal to work on making compost in town, keeping it local. The whole point is to doing it here. The quicker the better. Will sit down

Adam: Interested in third category, facilitating invasive species eradication pollinator pathways.

Amalia: Connect to Conservation Commission and Land Trust. Looking at what other towns were doing.

Greg and Edwina just got back from being out of town.

David: Started Equity training. Going through all the actions. Will Data mine and fill out worksheets. Affordable housing. Low hanging fruit in the program. Reached out to Don Engersoll. Got energy bills. Benchmarking will benefit town. Took CPACE program training. Looked into Shagbark's 1996 solar project and what is the structure. Is there any portion of the town that is getting renewable energy from it? There is an Electric charger at Shagbark. Does the Town support it? What are our Cultural assets. How do we promote the arts? We can Update CT visitors site. Create the right documentation for the SustainableCT.

Greg: Remembers that some of the power goes to school.

Jim: will get the documentation.

Jim: Will clean it off. Let's, have a real meeting. Assign people to get things done.

David: As a public servant we need to respect Jim and be patient and give time to respond to us.

Jim: Public works is an absolute disaster with emergencies every day.

David: Follow up and give time

Jim had to leave

Amalia: Working on understanding the actions Interested in category 8 - inclusive engagement. Has watched available workshops on the site. Equity 101 video. Looking for group for equity training

participation. Also did community participation in developing brownfields. We met with Equity coach Renae. Questions she sent were Who are the vulnerable people in the community? How to reach them and find out what they need? Next meeting with Equity coach will be on the 10th of May at 5 o'clock. We need to find what we think what to use for the equity process.

George: Sent an email on that. Needed to leave

Amalia: Amalia and David are on the municipal dashboard.

David: We should come up with the format and get the template up to people so

An overview of the action and documentation all files

David will show the format for basic format, and example on affordable housing, checking all boxes. Will grab and send along

New business

Amalia: Got in touch with East Haddam News about getting articles about what we are doing into the paper on a regular basis.

Edwina: Is willing to take over writing once she gets an understanding of what we are doing.

Amalia suggests looking at list of actions. We need one action in each category. Think about how to create public participation and public involvement.

David: Make sure to reach out to what concerns you in town. Diversity council try to reach out to all ages and all demographics in town, so they have a seat at the table. First article should ask for feedback from the community.

Amalia: I will write it and send it out to all for feedback and then send it to the paper. The editor is supportive.

No audience comments

Next meeting: June 7th 2022 at 7 via zoom

Meeting with equity coach is on May 10 at 5:00 on zoom.

Adjournment: David made motion to adjourn at 8:22 was seconded by Edwina.