08/02/2022 Minutes for Sustainability Team Special Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Amalia Shaltiel

Present Theresa Govert, Edwina Trentham, Adam Bristol, George Willauer, , Kayle Lopez , Amalia Shaltiel and David Oakes

Agenda approved – Motion by Trentham, Seconded by Kayle Lopez.

Minutes of special meeting of July 05, 2022, Approved – Motion by Edwina Trentham, Seconded by Kayle Lopez.

Unfinished Business:

Amalia Shaltiel reported on application status – We are on track to complete application by the 23rd at noon. The team has completed many of the needed actions. David Oakes will complete actions for energy benchmarks and transportation. Theresa Govert has kindly volunteered to be the Homelessness Liaison. Homelessness is an emerging category. For the minimal action in this category, we need to name a homelessness liaison and connect to our regional MMW (Meridian, Middletown, Wallingford) CAN and put the required information on the municipal website. The community conversation can be done at a slower pace over the year. This first application allows us a foot in the door and the documenting of many of the actions that have already been done. Other unfinished actions are in Economic Development, History and Culture and our Equity Process. The composting action was delayed because of the need to consult with the Health District. This hurdle was overcome when First Selectwoman Irene Haines initiated a conversation with the head of the Chatham Health District.

Team Reports:

- Kayle Lopez:
    - Ms. Lopez is focusing all her energy on the Goodspeed Airport Festival, coming up on August 27. Ms. Lopez is putting together activities and handouts for our tent:
        - Promotional cards – small sustainable way to give people information - needed websites as well as QR code to DEEP composting and recycling information. She will also create large signs.
        - Large bins and compostable bags have been donated by Shagbark Hardware store for food waste in festival.
        - Ms. Lopez is looking for volunteers for monitoring the bins and general help. She is creating an eco-friendly gift basket to raffle.
        - Bins will be sold to people interested in joining the program.
        - Still looking for tent and table and source of money for expenses such as the nip bottle bill for cash.
        - Waiting to hear back from UCONN for Master Composter. Jess Stone might be considered
    - Girl scouts have reached out for her to teach a class on composting.
    - Nancy McKinnon, of Ballek's will cohost a composting workshop at the end of September
    - Article will be submitted to East Haddam New to be published before festival

- Edwina Trentham:
    - East Haddam Events article on the arts will be coming out in August.
    - A call for poets was sent out in the East Haddam News for a reading of poems about the earth in September. It will take place somewhere outdoors. The date has not been set.
- George Willauer:
    - Will return to affordable housing later down the road.
    - Looking at the Art actions such as Poet Laureate, Creating an annual art prize.
    - Discussion ensued about a Makers Space, a program where people use public facility and tools for entrepreneurship and art projects. Mr. Willauer will familiarize himself with the Maker's Shop in New London.
- Adam Bristol:
    - Mr. Bristol has finished all the information sheets for invasive species for distribution to the public. Discussion ensued on how to distribute them.
    - UConn extension can come in October to give a seminar on invasive species in the area. Discussion ensued about integration of knowledge into the community. Maybe signage. Ms. Lopez suggested working in conjunction with Haddam Garden Club. Ms. Shaltiel suggested and equity process to find out what help people need to be able to deal with invasive species. Kayle volunteered to support Mr. Bristol in his projects.
- David Oakes:
    - Mr. Oakes communicated with Don Angersola for benchmark information about energy usages by the municipality. The Electric usage is already done. Fuel and oil deliveries will be provided by the public works office.
    - Mr. Oakes will meet with Jim Ventres to talk about the assessment of Zero Emmission Vehicles charges as to fulfill our transportation requirement.
    - Mr. Oakes added to the discussion of composting and the equity tool kit.
    - Mr Oakes reported that he has uploaded the Mentor mentee action, the affordable housing comparison and the recycling action.
    - Mr. Oakes suggested names for invasive species Outreach from a program in Bristol that Adam Bristol might look into.

Equity Action Status:

- Amalia Shaltiel reported on the survey results. Some highlights from the survey –
    - Composting is helpful for reducing town costs and should be commended.
    - There was a 98% positivity for the composting program.
    - The newspaper is the best source to get information to the community.
- The fifth part of Equity process is what we learned. Discussion ensued, where each member talked about what they learned. This discussion will be the base of the 5th part of the equity action and can be found in the East Haddam SustainableCT application on sustainablect.org action 1.1

New Business:

- Goodspeed Airport Festival: Ms. Shaltiel summarized and added to the information from the earlier discussion.
    - The Booth at the Goodspeed Airport Festival on the 27th of August will not be just for composting.
    - Other sustainability Team members can put out information such as Mr. Bristol's invasive species sheets and Poetry.
    - Mr Bristol volunteered to get permit for raffle.
    - An Email will be sent out to coordinate help at the booth. Mr. Oakes volunteered to put in an hour or two and supply tables and chairs.
    - Ms. Shaltiel will invite members of SustainableCT Beyond application: Adam will take on climate leadership

Community Input - None

Next Meeting: September 6, 2022

Adjournment 8:17 Motion to adjourn by Edwina Trentham seconded by David Oakes