Minutes for Sustainability Team Special Meeting 2022-12-06

Zoom Meeting Called at 7:11 by Amalia Shaltiel. Motion by Adam Bristol, Seconded by David Oakes.

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

Motion to approve agenda by Theresa Govert seconded by David Oakes. Unanimous approval

Motion to approve minutes of October 4th special meeting by Theresa Govert, Amalia Shaltiel Seconded. Unanimous approval

Unfinished business:

Amalia Shaltiel reported on Bronze Certification Award by Sustainable CT and Reception of plaque at ceremony. The ceremony was attended by Theresa Govert, David Oakes and Amalia Shaltiel. Plaque was presented to First Selectwoman Haines and given to Linda Zemienieski to hang. Press release sent to Theresa Govert by Amalia Shaltiel to edit and will be sent to paper explaining the process and thanking people who participated in the actions. The certification actions can be viewed on Sustainable CT. This is quite an honor that we managed to get there so quickly said Ms. Shaltiel.

Discussion on the next phase. Ms. Shaltiel suggested that we proceed with Climate Leadership Certification this year, and then continue on Silver Certification. Adam Bristol started reporting on what points we can easily get on the Climate Leadership Actions. Some problems in sharing the screen on Zoom. Ms. Shaltiel managed to share screen with updated actions. We need 150 points from Climate Leadership list. Adam Bristol's list of "low hanging fruit" will be updated on shared spread sheet. Team members discussed which actions were possible. David Oakes will look into points we already have from our bronze certification. Theresa Govert mentioned the reduction of solid waste. The numbers will be available during the budget process.

Team reports:

George Willauer: Nothing on list was a draw. Ms. Shaltiel suggested Mr. Willauer continue learning about the Makers Café.

Theresa Govert: Municipal Broadband can fit into Climate Leadership. In discussion there was a suggestion of using this for equity. Broadband committee is finalizing report. Their survey was resounding in response with more than 500 people answering the survey. Very high Percent who want open-source broadband. Ms. Govert will contact Sustainable CT to see how to proceed.

Adam Bristol: Invasive species and pollinators: Suggested organizing one of the talks about pollinators for late winter in library. Amalia Shaltiel suggested involvement of East Haddam Land Trust. Theresa Govert mentioned DEEP grants to combat aquatic invasive species for Moodus Resevoir and Bashan Lake. She suggested that we follow up if there are ways we can support them. Adam Bristol will do so. Amalia Shaltiel talked about the importance of the municipality showing interest and support of other organizations in their sustainable actions.

David: Oakes: Working on Bristol certification: Open to sharing workshops. For instance, Community Resilience Building Workshop. Will look into trainings that he is doing that he can use in our town also. Mr. Oakes urged that the press release be published soon in order not to lose momentum. Ms. Govert promised to get it done and Ms. Shaltiel will also write article for Events Magazine. Ms. Shaltiel asked about regional cooperation? Mr. Oakes suggested looking at the Eight Mile River Watershed as a possibility. He also suggested a joint sustainability event in the spring.

Kayle Lopez: Composting: Ms. Lopez will work with Shayleen on composting with the Middle School Environmental Club once the weather is good, and will host a town composting workshop in the spring. She will reach out again to Brad Parker at the Senior Center and will try and work with him on composting with seniors.

She will try and help with the climate list. Ms. Shaltiel talked about home composting as the best way to limit our garbage and so workshops on composting at home are important.

Amalia Shaltiel: Reported on PP presentation to Economic Development Commission. It was a good meeting. She is mostly interested in working with Lauren Pszczolkowski in getting a map of businesses online and connecting with the Chester Sustainability team on the regional effort to create a bike route going through Chester, the Ferry, Rt 82, the bridge and down the other side of the Connecticut River.

Ms. Shaltiel is also involved in Scouts fund raising project for a new shipping container at the transfer station to collect plastic bottles and cans at the transfer station. They will be eligible for a matching grant from Sustainable CT. David Oakes suggested talking to Community businesses. And to ask Lauren Pszczolkowski to send an email to businesses. Ms. Lopez has put it on the Composting Group on FB and has contributed to the fund raiser herself. Ms. Govert will follow up if any nip bottle money can be used for this. Ms. Shaltiel will ask the Community Foundation and the Community Lions for contributions.

Ms. Shaltiel will also focus on writing an article for the next Events Magazine

<u>Volunteers:</u>

Marilyn Gleeson is interested in joining. Maybe we can have alternate members.

<u>New Business:</u>

Sustainability Team page on Municipal website. Amalia Shaltiel sent the page to Theresa Govert to edit and will send to Linda Zemienieski. Hopefully we will then have links to other things on our pages.

No other business

No Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 – Motion by David Oakes for adjournment and happy holidays Theresa Govert seconded both

Next meeting January 3rd 2023 at 7 PM on Zoom