Minutes for Sustainability Team meeting 3.7.2023

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Amalia Shaltiel. Present are Theresa Govert, Kayle Lopez, Adam Bristol, Jesse Scott. Joined a little later Edwina Trentham. Also present Cynthia Deming, liaison with East Haddam Land Trust.

Approval of Agenda Motion by Kayle Lopez, seconded by Adam Bristol. Agenda approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes of meeting of 2.7.2023. Motion to approve by Kayle Lopez seconded by Jesse Scott. Minutes approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Spring Fling :Ms. Shaltiel reported on the Spring Fling preparations for the Friends of Sunrise Machimoodos State Park event on Sunday March 19th at 12:00-3:00. Set up at 10:30. Quite a lot of organizations will be present. In the discussion that ensued it was decided: The Sustainability Team will set up with whatever materials we have. Ms. Lopez will set up tables and tent at 10:30. Ms. Shaltiel will bring materials for an art experience. She will also bring materials supplied by Energize CT for information about energy efficiency programs. Adam Bristol will bring his information about local invasive species. Mr. Scott will bring residential educational pamphlets for energy use and some giveaways. Mr. Scott, Ms. Lopez, Mr. Bristol and Ms. Shaltiel will man the booth. Ms. Deming will check if the Land Trust is also involved. Ms. Lopez will also have brochures about composting and her workshop. She will have them printed after her meeting with First Selectwoman Irene Haines.

Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Workshop update – action 5.4.2.

Ms. Shaltiel reported: The Workshop is happening! John Olin from the Conservation Committee is taking the lead on organizing it with both Sustainable CT and Adam Welchel, Director of Science at The Nature Conservancy. The process takes about 3 month. Mr. Olin is in the stage of gathering information from the community about our strengths and vulnerabilities. He will complete a community characterization survey in the next couple of weeks and a participant worksheet of the people who will be part of the workshop. The workshop itself will take place in April on Zoom. The Nature Conservancy will write out a synthesized report of all the information gathered in the workshop for the use of the town. We have seen such a report that was shared by Mr. Oakes from Bristol.

Energize Connecticut Community Partnership Initiative:

Ms. Shaltiel Reported that the Sustainability Team will apply for a grant with Eversource and Energize CT to create a local campaign for better energy use. A discussion of the place of Eversource ensued. Ms. Shaltiel explained the possibility of changing energy providers on Energize CT for cheaper electricity prices and also that the power

companies by law have to provide outreach services to the communities to help citizens and businesses become more energy efficient. Mr. Oakes and Ms. Shaltiel will start the process. Ms. Govert will bring it to the attention of the Board of Selectmen.. In the Discussion Mr. Scott asked about the timeline. Mr. Scott will take that on.

Composting workshop and initiatives.

Ms. Lopez reported that the Composting workshop is scheduled for April 15 at Ballek's from 2-3 o'clock. We have been given permission to set up a SustainabilityTeam booth for that time. Ms. Lopez can arrange to get the booth again. Middles School composting is waiting for details will probably also start next month. Ms. Lopez will also have an article in the paper about composting. Regional composting was also discussed. Ms. Shaltiel volunteered manning the booth on April 15th, but will bring it up in next meeting.

Letter of Support for Bike Trail Grant-

Ms. Shaltiel reported about the Economic Development Commission's regional initiative to create an 18 mile bike loop through, East Haddam, Chester and Haddam. The chair of the Commission, Bob Casner asked the Sustainability Team for a letter of support for a grant from DEEP for money for the first stage for planning and surveying of the first off road segment of the loop that would run parallel to Town Street from the Four Corners to Rose Farm Reserve. Ms. Shaltiel wrote the letter with the help of the Chester Sustainability Team and Ms. Govert. The grant was written by Mr Ventres and our letter of support included.

Ms. Shaltiel sees this as a stage where the Sustainability Team is becoming a support role organization for all things sustainable in the town.

Team Reports:

Adam Bristol - Adam Bristol will connect with Tanya Borgoin, president of Friends of Sunrise/Machimoodus State Park and also a member of Friends of Rathbun Library. In her joint roles she is interested in hosting the workshop that Mr. Bristol is planning from UCON.

Jesse Scott: Mr Scott is exploring funding programs for the town. The Department of Energy has 4 programs, 3 grant programs and one lending program from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Act. He would like to see if there are things on our agenda for which we could apply for funding. - Sustainable related Federal grants. Mr Scott will see what we can apply for. Mr. Scott and Ms. Shaltiel will meet once Mr. Scott is ready.

Ms. Trentham initiated a discussion about what can be composted at the town composting and the creation of a composting facility which Ms. Lopez is interested in.

Also mentioned was the idea of creating a wild butterfly friendly part of the community garden. Mr. Ventres has ok'd using the marshy part of the garden for that. The owner of Into the Woods who is an expert on butterflies would advise and assist us in this project.

Ms. Shaltiel: reported that she is entering data for all the open space in East Haddam owned by the town, the State, the Nature Conservancy and the East Haddam Land Trust.

Ms. Shaltiel asked that one of the group visit the Repair Café hosted March 11th by Essex Sustainability Team. Adam Bristol will try and get there.

New Business:

Ms Shaltiel suggested we look into new workshop ideas.

Audience of Citizens - none

Next meeting April 4th at 7PM

Motion for adjournment Kayle Lopez and Seconded by Adam Bristol

Meeting ended 7:55