Minute SUSTAINABILITY TEAM
TUESDAY, April 4th, 2023

1. Meeting called to order at 7:08 by Amalia Shaltiel. Present are Theresa Govert, David Oakes, Adam Bristol, Jesse Scott, Amalia Shaltiel and Cynthia Deming Liaison to the East Haddam Land Trust. Kayle Lopez joined later in the meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve Agenda by Theresa Govert, Seconded by Adam Bristol. Agenda approved unanimously.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes**: Meeting of March 7th, 2023 – Motion to approve by Jesse Scott, Seconded by Theresa Govert. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. **Unfinished Business**
   A. **Report on Spring Fling at Machimoodus Sunrise State Park**: Ms. Shaltiel shared a Thank You Note from Friends of Machimoodus that was sent to the Sustainability Team through the Town. She reported on the windy and cold, but successful event. Present at the event were Kayle Lopez who brought the tent and tables, Adam Bristol and Ms. Shaltiel. David Oakes brought a table and chairs for the art project. Cynthia Deming stopped by to see if she could help. We talked with people, gave out information about composting and about energy related issues with brochures supplied by Eversource, and a brochure about invasives that Mr. Bristol had created. We also shared information about SustainableCT and gave away Swag. We offered an art project with natural materials for children and listened to the drumming and music. We also created contacts with organizations from other booths. Mr. Adam added that there were more people than he expected and good contacts.
   B. **Report on Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Workshop:** Ms. Shaltiel reported on the initiative that was started by David Oakes and picked up by John Olin from the Conservation Commission. The zoom meeting hosted by the Nature Conservancy will take place on the 25th from 9:00 to noon. 20 to 25 people are expected to attend the Zoom after filling out a Survey for Nature Conservancy. The initial survey of concerns of the town was gathered up by Mr. Olin and forwarded to the Nature Conservancy. After the workshop the Town will hold a town wide Forum so town residents can discuss the results and conclusions of the workshop. This has been discussed with Ms. Haines and Ms. Zeimeininski. Ms. Shaltiel would like to create an equity action from this from the feedback to the town. Mr. Oakes gave his experience from Bristol and suggested we make sure to include seniors and youth service and use the equity tool kit as we do this. Ms. Shaltiel asked David Oakes to help with the Equity project. Ms. Shaltiel will connect him with John Olin.
   C. **Report on Status of Grant for Energize Connecticut Community Partnership Initiative:** Jesse Scott Reported that Ms. Govert identified a source of Funding from Energy Connecticut initiative. This is the second round through Eversource. The intent is to have locally driven grass roots outreach to promote energy efficient programs offered by Eversource and Energize CT, focused on low and middle income populations. The four categories were: Home energy solutions, heat pumps, small businesses and multiresidential energy solutions. Due to the demographic of the town we decided to focus on Home Energy Solutions which provides free home audits for low income households. And on adoption of heat pumps and electrification. Mr. Scott gathered the material needed for the application and presented it at a special Board of Finance Meeting since we needed town approval for submitting the grant, as they were named as the fiduciary agent with Ms. Haines signature on the application. Funding would be run through the town. We applied for $20000 to cover marketing efforts, advertisement, outreach mailers, home energy toolkits, printing costs, postage costs, rental of space, promotional material and curriculum, movie or a case study of installation. Mr. Scott reached out to Deven from Energy CT and she said we would most likely find out if we got the grant in two weeks (Mid-April). Talking with Eversource about what success would look like in this campaign would be getting people to do the energy audits and demonstrations of Heat pump technology. The duration of the program would be 8 to 12 months. Mr. Oakes added that energize CT has a seminar

every Thursday and that there was one on heat pumps on April 6th. Mr. Oakes registered for that. The other thing would be to do a small zoom or put on town page how to change your supply on Energize CT. Mr. Oakes will share the information that he has seen. Ms. Govert shared that Connecticut has very robust protection for consumers from their energy suppliers so they can quit with no cancelation fees. Ms. Shaltiel also noted that when choosing suppliers one can choose 100% renewable and so contribute to alternative energy supply. Mr. Scott suggested we continue thinking of the best avenue to educate the public on this matter.

D. **Report on Composting workshop and other initiatives**: Kayle Lopez reported – Composting workshop at Ballek's on the 15 of April. We will have the tent available. The workshop starts at 2. Setup will be at 12:30. Ms. Lopez is also waiting on the start date of the Middle School Garden Club. Ms. Lopez is also taking steps on regional composting and partnering with Cold Spring Farm. Ms. Shaltiel added that she had been in touch with Janice at River COG and they are selling composting bins this month. She is willing to bring one to the workshop. Ms. Lopez volunteered to connect with Janice and take care of getting the Bin. Ms. Lopez is interested in meeting her about regional composting. Ms. Shaltiel will be there to man the tent. Ms. Lopez said she would be available to represent town composting at the Farmer's Market in the summer and do collections. Ms. Govert also gave kudos to Kayle for her article in the East Haddam News. She got 3 different responses from it. One from Killingworth from a person who wanted to bring her compost to town, one from Sarah Ballak about the workshop and one from Haddam Sustainability Committee who was impressed with the article.

E. **Report on completion of Recycling Container replacement by Boy Scouts:** Ms. Shaltiel reported on the completion of the community funding project.

F. **Team Reports**:

Jesse Scott: Next order of business will be looking at the town's energy audits and to see if he can support the town's initiative of installing solar at the transfer station. He will wait till he hears about the Eversource grant before committing time and resource to other projects. He will also look into government funding opportunities. Mr. Scott suggested that we create a shared drive on Google. Mr. Bristol volunteered to organize a drive folder there.

Adam Bristol is working with UCONN outreach to get a date for a workshop. Early to mid-May seems a likely time. Once he has a couple of options he will work with Ms. Borgoin of Friends of Rathbun library and Friends of Machimoodus State Park to set it up. He will also reach out to Essex to pair with them on workshops, specifically a pollinator workshop. Ms. Shaltiel suggested that we learn from Essex who do monthly programs at their library. We could do so at Rathbun.

Mr. Bristol reported on visiting the Repair Café. It was a great success. People brought in old toasters, someone repaired watches. Also available were sharpening knives , straightening out of utensils. Women on sewing machines. Mr. Bristol has talked with people at work who are interested in doing a Repair workshop in town. Mr. Bristol is putting something together for the summer.

Theresa Govert: Is trying to start a program of creating scratch meals at schools partnering with a program that was piloted in New London which puts a professional chef in the school system and looks at the equipment in the schools and slowly transition the kitchens to scratch cooking using recipes within the school guidelines. And also promoting local food growing. Ms. Govert has met with the executive director of the organization and will apply for a federal grant for healthy meals in small and rural schools. She will pursue this grant to see if we can hire this organization called Chef Brigades to transform the food system in the school. Ms. Lopez asked if we could also look at how school kitchens are wasting. Waste Schools also have grants. Ms. Govert is in the Gathering information stage but sees it as a three fold process - transforming the school kitchen, connecting it with local growers and diversion of organic waste. Ms. Shaltiel talked about how that could fit within a circular economy.

Amalia Shaltiel: Still working on documenting all the Open Space in East Haddam. Started working on long term project on creating a Butterfly Garden in the Community garden. Has permission from Jim Ventres and will connect with Jeff owner of Into the Woods who is a butterfly expert. Adam will be involved.

G. **Volunteers and Liaison reports**: **Cynthia Deming – EHLT Liaison**: In Spring Fling tent blew away but EHLT memebers helped with parking. Land Trust continues clearing trails and monitoring trails. Annual meeting was very successful at Historical Society. Ms. Shaltiel mentioned the talk about Native American Stone Work hosted by the East Haddam Land Trust.

5. New Business
    A. **New Workshops and Events**:
    Repair Café – Mentioned by Adam Bristol
    Source to Sea Cleanup – UCONN extension will give all needed material for fall workshop – Mentioned by Adam Bristol
    Ms. Deming asked about Town – Wide Cleanup
    Energize CT – workshop or Event – Mentioned by Ms. Shaltiel
    B. Communications Survey – Ms. Shaltiel mentioned a desire to do a communication survey for an equity project, going into the community and asking how people get their information and how they would like to get their information. To be able to advise the town how to best keep people informed.
6. Volunteer to run May meeting. Ms. Shaltiel will not be present. David Oakes will run the meeting.

7. Audience of Citizens – No public comments.

8. Next meeting May 2nd, 2023 at 7:00 pm via zoom
    Thanks to all from Amalia Shaltiel. Jesse Scott suggested we meet in person for lunch.

9. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by David Oakes Seconded by Jesse Scott. Adjournment at 8:31