Minutes for Sustainability Team meeting July 11 2023.

Meeting called to order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:04

Present: Jesse Scott, Adam Bristol, Theresa Govert, Tanya Bourgoin, Adam Bristol and Amalia Shaltiel

1) **Approval of Agenda**: Motion by Tanya Bourgoin. Seconded by Adam Bristol. Ms. Shaltiel asked to move Theresa Govert forward on Agenda. Agenda approved by all.
2) **Approval of Minutes of June 11th Meeting:** Motion by Theresa Govert. Seconded by Jesse Scott. A short discussion about privacy and public records ensued. Minutes unanimously approved.
3) **Old Business**:
   a) New Members: Matt Shea's application had not yet been approved by the BOS. Ms. Govert will make sure it is on the next agenda. Ms. Shaltiel again reiterated that the Team is looking to fill a vacancy by a non-Democrat and always welcomes volunteers.
   b) Fellow Report: Ms. Shaltiel reported that although Fellow Summer Mitchell could not attend the meeting she had sent a spread sheet with all the credits that could be rolled over from the Bronze application to the Silver, totalling about 220 credits. This is something that was not known to Ms. Shaltiel and makes the next application much easier. Ms. Shaltiel sent the spreadsheet to team members just before the meeting and asked them to look it over. She asked if there were any volunteers to input the necessary information.
   c) Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Workshop: Ms. Shaltiel reported that there would be a meeting on the 17th of the original people who participated in the workshop the workshop at the Municipal Building. David Oakes will be there. Ms Shaltiel also mentioned CIRCA's plan to move forward with an engineering study of Succor Brook that has created flooding in the village. That will be discussed at the meeting.
   d) Update on Energize Connecticut Community Outreach Initiative: Jesse Scott reported. He and Ms. Shaltiel met with Eversource representatives after a stern letter about our disappointment in the lack of response. They told us that there was a lot of interest in the programs, but the holdup was the uncertainty of funding for the actual assessments. They are working on moving through the beaureaucratic process to ensure funding. They are optimistic and were appreciative of our application, but the timeline of action will change to winter and spring. They asked us to come up with a catchy name, logo or slogan. Mr. Scott asked the team to think of ideas for energy efficiency in East Haddam for a campaign name. Mr. Scott again reminded the listeners that this was for a $20000 dollar grant for outreach, for marketing materials and giveaways and events to draw interest to sign up for energy audits. Ms. Bourgoin asked if the cost of the grant included the cost of the audits. Mr. Scott explained that the audits themselves are paid out of the system benefit charge on our utility bills. We would partner with a quality contractor we know and trust, ideally local and or minority or a woman. The company would get paid by energize ct or eversource. Ms. Shaltiel added that we are targeting low-income residents in this outreach. Ms. Govert asked if we could also educate people on the matching payment program as part of this program. Mr. Scott answered that we will have a lot of flexibility to create our own marketing materials and could add that to the back of the material. To give other opportunities such as the green bank that residents and businesses can take advantage of. Such as locking in rates with and energy suppliers or EV charging or solar programs. Or maybe promoting other Sustainability Team focuses

e) Ms. Govert reported that First Selectwoman Haines requested that we do a little more advertising around the composting program to add participation of summer residents. Ms. Govert will work with Ms. Lopez to decide on the campaign. Ms. Shaltiel asked Ms. Govert if she could find out the information about our solid waste per capita over the last 2 years. Ms Govert will pursue that. Ms Shaltiel also asked if there was any new information about lunch programs for schools that Ms. Govert had pursued. There is no new information. Ms. Govert is working at the state level for funding to imbed chefs into schools, mostly for low-income schools. But it will include incentives for procuring local food for schools. Mr. Oakes added that there should be a quarterly and annual submission to DEEP of solid waste. Ms Govert will follow up on that.
f) Composting Initiatives: Matt Shea left a message that he will meet with Ms. Lopez to start our Youtube channel. He has completed the paperwork for that. Ms. Bourgoin asked about what container to use to bring solid waste to the transfer station. Ms Shaltiel explained about our sets but this highlights the need for more education of the community. Kits are available at the town clerk.
g) Report on certification process - Ms. Shaltiel reported about the help from Fellow Summer Mitchell's chart. We would have 220 points available which means that we are almost halfway to the Silver, with all categories covered. Ms Shaltiel reported on initiatives that she has started for the certification. She mentioned Open Space, Broadband and invasives and polintators. Mr. Oakes will be taking on the Committee Resilience Workshop reporting in the latter part of August. Mr. Scott will work on all aspects of municipal energy and solar. Ms. Shaltiel also mentioned the open space municipal bond and the amount of open space envisioned to be kept open in the open space ordinance. We are only a quarter of the way there.
h) Report on Repair Café and other workshops. – We have a call for volunteers in the East Haddam News. Adam Bristol took on the organization of the volunteers. We need the list by the beginning of August to create a poster and start advertising it. We have around 8 possible volunteers from Mr. Bristol, the paper and Tanya. Also discussed were Invasive and pollinator workshops. Those are still in the stage of reaching out to people and organizations. Mr. Bristol and Ms. Bourgoin took this on. Discussion of having the workshop in October for preparing pollinators for over wintering. Ms. Bourgoin will put together a handout which will be added to Mr. Bristol's invasive handouts.
i) Calendar – Repair Café – August 19, Composting – September, Over wintering for pollinators - October.
j) Surveys communication – no new information
k) Team reports:
    i) Jesse Scott – started discussion on promotion – Maybe sponsoring a Team or Little League even
    ii) Tanya Bourgoin – Reach out to Pollinator pathway folks, Jonas Center and Gail Reynolds from master Gardner in Uconn extension. Ms. Shaltiel suggested that she could do another presentation of her talk about meadowlands. Mr. Bristol suggested that Tanya could do the Demo about Clean and Green. She will ask Friends of Rathbun Library if she could do a presentation at Rathbun Library.
    iii) Ms. Shaltiel – EDC got the Grant from Deep for bike path feasibility study on Town Street. We had send a letter of recommendation. The celebrated extension into Palmer Warner Farm.

Maybe we can suggest extension to Machimoodus State Park. Also, EDC is putting welcome package. We can add information that would be helpful.

4) New Business –
   a) Suggestion of New Articles to keep us visible.
   b) Meeting with Fellows to go over chart
5) No Audience of Citizens.
6) Next meeting August 1st 7:00 PM
7) Motion to adjourn by Mr. Scott seconded by Mr. Oakes. Meeting adjourned 8:04