Minutes
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, August 1st, 2023
ON-LINE MEETING (Committee)
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE (Public)
7:00PM

1. Meeting called to order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:05. Present : Theresa Govert, Adam Bristol, Tanya Bourgoin, Kayle Lopez, Amalia Shaltiel and Cynthia Deming, Liaison to East Haddam Land Trust.

2. Approval of Agend - Motion to approve made by Theresa Govert, Seconded by Tanya Bourgoin. Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of July 11th, 2023 Meeting, Motion made by Theresa Govert, Seconded by Adam Bristol. Minutes accepted.

4. Unfinished Business
    a. New Members – Ms. Shaltiel reported that Matt Shea was officially added to the team, but he could not attend because of family matters.
    b. Introduction of Fellows and report – The Fellows, Summer Mitchell and Devin Sturtivant could not attend but Ms. Shaltiel and Ms. Bourgoin met with them a few days earlier. Ms. Bourgoin reported her take away from the meeting was that we had many actions we could accomplish easily or were in the process of accomplishing for more points and that we were in a good position to have enough points for gold certification in the near future. Ms. Shaltiel added that many points that were used for Bronze can be moved to Silver and in the meeting with the Fellows we looked through the spreadsheet that Summer had created to see what wording we needed to use to roll them over into the silver application. Ms. Shaltiel will try and complete most of the rollovers before the application deadline of August so we could have those actions reviewed. We also looked at other possible actions and there were many we can do, also as Ms. Bourgoin pointed out during the meeting, the requirement that is necessary for Gold certification of a regional project is met by the Eight Mile Rive Wild and Scenic Management Plan or the creation of the Goodwin Trail taking place right now.
    c. Repair Café – Adam Bristol reported that he has created a flyer for the event. We will put it on social media. Ms. Bourgoin will publish it in Patch and on the East Haddam News Calendar. Ms. Lopez volunteered to put fliers up around town. Mr. Bristol has a list of 6 volunteers. The Repair Café will take place at the Grange on August 19th from 11-4 with setup from 10-11 and take down from 4-5. Ms. Shaltiel suggested we also have a Sustainability Team table with our brochures. We could also make a sign for the front and some yard signs to put up in different parts of town. Ms. Shaltiel volunteered to repurpose old signs and she also has a sandwich board. Other places were discussed and also putting it on the Municipal site current events.
    d. Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Workshop next steps: Ms. Shaltiel reported on the follow-up meeting that occurred at the Municipal Building on July 17th. The video of the meeting can be accessed under the Community Heading of the Municipal site under town resilience. There will be a public meeting inviting Town's People to learn about the findings and add their input. A couple of the ideas that were brought up in the meeting was to start neighborhood groups that would be helpful to each other during emergencies. The Sustainability Team might be of assistance in creating these groups. CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation) will probably advance us to a study of the flooding in Succor Brook.
    e. Silver and Climate Leader Progress Report – Ms. Shaltiel reported that she is working on the submission for the deadline of August 15. She is working on actions surrounding Open Space and

the Economic Development Commission initiatives and just plugging along.

f. Other workshops – Kayle Lopez will start advertising the Composting workshop for September 24 a month before the workshop. It will be inside so the sound quality of the video will be better, and we can use it. Matt Shea and Ms. Lopez will talk about the YouTube channel. Ms. Lopez will create a flyer for the event.
   October Workshop – Overwintering the garden for Pollinators. Tanya Bourgoin has a lot of information that we can use. Ms. Shaltiel asked if we should do this as a video or a workshop. A discussion about the date came up
   November – Green your Clean by Tanya Bourgoin, Probably with Friends of Rathbun

g. Team Reports – Theresa Govert – Gearing up for community broadband project. Community engagement and education. It will be discussed in the August meeting. Ms. Govert also reported on the affordable connectivity program for people who make less than 200% of the federal poverty level. They can get a $30 credit for their internet Bill and all internet companies are required to provide $30 plans so that people can get free plans, or they can chose a more expensive one and get the credit. Kregan Memorial Library will have a community navigator to help people sign up to the program. Ms. Govert talked to them about potentially partnering with them to come to East Haddam and do something in conjunction with the food bank, clothing bank and personal products bank so services can be centralized. Ms. Shaltiel asked that Ms. Govert send her that information to put on the Sustainability Team FB page.
   Tanya Bourgoin – Sent the No Idling request for the bridge and Ferry to the First Selectwoman. Ms. Shaltiel explained - Ms. Bourgoin initiated the and that although it is under DOT jurisdiction, the First Selectwoman asked us to draft the request and she will present it to DOT.
   Kayle Lopez – Is mostly concentrating on the composting program she is putting together on Cold Spring Farm. Waiting for clearance from Chatham Health for where it would be ok to put drop off boxes and if it's ok to collect at the food market. She is planning a research trip to visit a couple of composting facilities in Maine. Ms. Lopez thinks that using a local facility complementary to Blue Earth will be a game changer in terms of our waste sustainability, here and in the surrounding Towns. Ms. Lopez explained that this would not be a municipal composting program but that she would set up a food waste hauling company, partnering with local farms so that we wouldn't have to pay to have it hauled away and it could be redistributed into the community and into the land here. Ms. Lopez answered Ms. Bourgoin's inquiry about the difference between this and our municipal program. More than 100 people are using the municipal program but we are paying a company to haul the food waste away. Ms. Lopez will be offering a private company which will keep it local and partner with businesses, surrounding schools and neighborhoods with drop-off points to create a cheaper more sustainable model. A discussion ensued about the different aspects of composting, private and public partnereships.
   Adam Bristol – Working on Repair Café
   Amalia Shaltiel – Reported on Troop 22 Container. Darcy Allen said they were very happy with the new container and had moved to sorting every 6 weeks instead of every 8 weeks. Ms. Shaltiel would like to do some recycling workshops in Conjunction with Michele Valez from Public Works, in order to educate people on the recycling process. Will be working on the application and helping with the Repair Cafe

h. Volunteers and Liaison reports: - Cynthia Deming with the East Haddam Land Trust – The EHLT is planning a biking and camping excursion in May in conjunction with the Lyme Land Trust on the Goodwin Trail. A Disc Golf fundraiser is also coming up. Continuing to assess and look at properties. Musical Bridges is coming up at the end of August, the last Monday of the Month. Ms. Shaltiel asked if we could put our Sustainability Team table at the event. Ms. Deming will look it up. Trail maintenance is continuously happening. Ms. Shaltiel asked if there were any photos from improvements done with the Conservation Commission in the last to years to include in the actions. Ms. Deming also mentioned getting photos from locals for the EHLT Calendar. Another project is Save and Oaks by protecting Oak saplings in areas of die-off.

5. New Business - None
6. Audience of Citizens - None

7. Next meeting September 5th, 2023, at 7:00 pm via zoom
   Ms. Govert will not be there to livestream next meeting but will have it taken care of.

8. Adjournment – 8:10 Motion for adjournment by Kayle Lopez seconded by Theresa Govert.