Minutes
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, OCT. 3rd, 2023
ON-LINE MEETING (Committee)

1. Meeting called to order by Amalia Shaltiel, Secretary of Sustainability Team at 7:03. Present: Theresa Govert, Amalia Shaltiel, Tanya Bourgoin, Adam Bristol, Matt Shea and David Oakes. Joined by Jesse Scott and later by Kayle Lopez. Cynthia Deming, liaison for East Haddam Land Trust, also joined later in the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda. Motion by Tanya Bourgoin, Seconded by Theresa Govert. Agenda Accepted

3. Acceptance of Minutes: Meeting of Aug 1st, 2023, Motion by Jesse Scott, seconded by David Oakes. Minutes accepted. Theresa Govert abstained as she was not present.

4. Unfinished Business
    a. New Members – Matt Shea is welcomed and thanked for joining. Two volunteers have shown interest in being kept abreast and help. Ms. Shaltiel also invited members of the audience who would like to be on the zoom to contact the team and ask to be invited to the zoom meetings.
    b. Workshops in August and September:
        i. Adam Bristol reported on Repair Café – The workshop was successful. Many people showed up and the volunteers were able to fix most of the stuff people brought or give advice about things we couldn't fix. Mr. Bristol suggested that if we do this again we should have more people that can do sewing. And also, more people doing general stuff. Mr. Bristol suggests we do it again once or twice a year. Tanya Bourgoin and Amalia Shaltiel were also at the workshop. A discussion of connecting with Shagbark ensued. Mr. Bristol will reach out to Heather at Shagbark.
        ii. Matt Shea reported on composting Workshop at Ballek's. Nancy Balleck did a phenomenal job. We had 2 more people than the last workshop with great questions and sharing of information. There is more interest in composting in town now. So overall a great workshop. The workshop was videotaped and Mr. Shea cut it into clips, separating according to questions to be used on Youtube Channel. The workshop was set up by Kayle Lopez and Nancy Ballek. The Sustainability Team Table was set up. Ms. Lopez is also continuing to promote the town composting program and composting in the schools so the program will continue to grow.
    c. Action Submission Report – Ms. Shaltiel reported that she submitted actions for review. We have 350 approved points, and we are very close to our goal of 500 points for Silver Certification. Ms. Shaltiel congratulated Mr. Oakes on Bristol's achieving of Silver. She explained that many of the new points are related to Open Space and Community Resilience Building. She hopes Mr. Oakes will help get the equity points related to that action and other related points. Ms. Shaltiel asked Ms. Govert for help on getting the equity points from the Broadband initiative and for Mr. Oakes to look at the actions that need revision and see if he can figure them out. Mr. Scott will look into the energy action issues. Since the town has not done audits, Ms. Shaltiel will check if it would be acceptable for Jesse Scott who is a certified energy auditor and energy manager to do the audits.
    d. River Fest – Ms. Shaltiel has reached out to Pat Young at Eight Mile River and secured our place. It will occur on Saturday Oct 14 between 1- 4 PM. Ms. Bourgoin explained that River Fest is about community, environment, wildlife and open space with no commercial enterprises. Participants include conservationists, folks from DEEP, mountain bike people and land trusts and nonprofits. The festival is meant to educate and inspire us to enjoy what we have in East Haddam and the surrounding areas. It is very well run. Ms. Shaltiel asked for volunteers. She would be there. Mr. Oakes and Mr. Scott will get back if they can come. She would get all the stuff and do an art project

for kids.

e. Planned workshops – Ms. Bourgoin will ask the library board at the next meeting about doing the Putting the Garden to Sleep workshop. They were not very enthusiastic for the Clean and Green idea. Another possibility would be to involve the Garden Club and the Bookstore downtown. Ms. Deming who is part of the Garden Club will ask them if they would like to be involved. Another venue for Clean and Green which involves making your own cheap and environmentally friendly cleaning products, could be found. Ms. Shaltiel asked if there were other ideas for workshops. She mentioned looking at other towns and seeing if any of their workshops could be done here. She has congratulated Chester Sustainability Team on attaining Silver Certification. She also mentioned Sustainable CT 's award ceremony on October 17th. David Oakes and she were planning to attend. Other members were invited to join.
f. Media – Matt Shea reported that he will meet with Theresa Govert to finish authentication of Youtube channel. Once done Mr. Shea will start cutting videos that we can show in different languages that are spoken in East Haddam and also in closed captioning. Ms. Shaltiel and Mr. Shea will work on getting the link between Instagram and Facebook working. This is so we can communicate with different age groups that use different social media. In the discussion Ms. Shaltiel also talked about acquainting residents with the Town Website and what one can find on it to. Mr. Shea mentioned the possibility of having a digital moving sign with events. Ms. Govert suggested getting a matching grant fund from Sustainable CT. Maybe generate revenue from advertising of businesses. The sign could be in Moodus or in front of the Municipal Building.
g. Team Reports:
    i. Adam Bristol: Looking at Climate Leader actions Mr. Bristol asked about the action of the municipal resolution to opt into CPACE. In the discussion that followed Ms. Govert found the resolution that the town has opted into CPACE in 2013. Adam Bristol will follow up on documenting the action. He also was interested in the action about creating cooling centers and will follow up on that with Emergency Management Team and the Resiliency Core Group. He also mentioned the action of Managing woodland forests. Ms. Demings explained the East Haddam Land Trust management practice in one of their preserves to save oak seedlings. Mr. Bristol will follow up on that.,
    ii. Amalia Shaltiel: Library Fairy Houses. Ms. Shaltiel volunteered to make one. Halloween in the Village – waiting for next year
    iii. Tanya Bourgoin – Totally redoing pollinator garden in Machimoodos, very well planned and all set out. Following rules of pollinator pathways guidelines. We could use it as pollinator garden action if we document it. Ms. Shaltiel will send Ms. Bourgoin the action. Ms. Shaltiel also mentioned the River to Sea Cleanup that Friends of Machimoodus participated in.
    iv. Matt Shea – Wondered about the Bike trail and transportation. Ms. Shaltiel reported that the EDC got the grant for initial surveys of the bike trail portion on town street from 4 Corners to Rose Farm Preserve in preparation of making that part as of the off road trail. The EDC also got back the report on Walk Through of Moodus, on how to make Moodus a more walkable village. Sidewalks are planned for the whole block around Joe Palmer, and all the way to the Senior Center. We could probably get points for complete streets from that initiative. David will look into it. The Biking trail will be a regional project.
    v. Theresa Govert reported on the first round of informational meetings for the Broadband Committee that will happen on October 26th. 10 AM for Seniors. Noon for Businesses and at 7 PM a meeting for families and residents, all at the municipal complex. Ms. Govert has also reached out to the Kregan Memorial Library who got a grant for a digital navigator that gives people in the United States a 30 dollar grant to get affordable internet. She is working to partner with the food bank and personal care products to bring the digital navigator here on a day where people in need are already congregated. She also reported that the Open Space Commission will start in partnership with the EHLT to educate residents about an open space bond which will go in front of the community in January, for a town meeting in preparation for a referendum on the property next to the middle school. We got a state grant for that but need to authorize the rest of the funds. We are also planning to authorize a five million dollar bond. This was last done in 2002 and we just finished utilizing those resources. This bonding allows us to preauthorize bonding when applying for grants, but every purchase still needs to go to referendum. The Sustainability Team will do all it can to

help all these initiatives. Ms. Shaltiel suggested that lawn signs are effective in getting people to come.

vi. Kayle Lopez: Q&A podcasts with Nancy Ballek for our Youtube Channel. Will try and hookup with environmental clubs in schools next spring. Is working on Airport Festival and being in charge of all the garbage. Looking to get some funding to get better setups such as 3 sectional containers, more signs and posters, pop up container system for other events. Having our own garbage cans for events. Ms. Shaltiel was wondering about funding containers and workshops about recycling in tandem. Ms. Deming is willing to sit down with Kayle and discuss logistics of garbage hauling at the festival that she learned from last year.

vii. Jesse Scott: Still waiting for Energize CT Grant response. Will make Sustainability Team Scarecrow. Also Discussed Audits. Can do Level 2 Audit for the town.

viii. David Oakes: Will start working on Equity tool kit for CRB.

h. Volunteers and Liaison reports: Cynthia Deming EHLT Liaison – Nothing to report. Mention was made of the Goodwin Trail Challenge Fund Raiser on October 8th.

5. New Business
   a. New Initiatives: No New initiatives

6. Audience of Citizens: None

7. Next meeting moved to November 14th at 7:00 PM

Ms. Bourgoin announced that Friends of Sunrise Machimoodus will host a Tales from the Trails Hike on Sunday the 22nd at Noon

8. Adjournment at 8:30 Motion by Ms. Lopez, Seconded by Ms. Govert