MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, Dec 5, 2023
ON-LINE MEETING (Committee)
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE (Public)
7:00PM

1. Call to Order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:02 – Roll call: Present, Tanya Bourgoin, Adam Bristol, Jesse Scott, David Oakes and Amalia Shaltiel, and Cynthia Deming, Liaison for East Haddam Land Trust

2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Tanya Bourgoin, Seconded by Jesse Scott. Agenda Approved.

3. Acceptance of Minutes: Meeting of Nov 11, 2023, Motion by Amalia Shaltiel, Seconded by David Oakes. Minutes approved.

4. Unfinished Business
    a. New Members: Ms. Shaltiel reported - 2 New members, Wade Tomlinson and Terri Garitty. Wade Tomlinson, a Democrat works at Franklin Academy, has sustainability experience and is interested in working with youth, especially supporting youth initiative projects. Ms. Garrity is a Republican and so can fill our last slot. She is a member of the Board of Education and has joined our team to work on issues of Equity for Special Need residents. David Oakes made a motion to accept both members into the team. Jesse Scott seconded it. Motion Approved unanimously.
    b. Change of meeting time for 2024 – Ms. Shaltiel suggested changing the meeting time to the last Wednesday of the month. Motion by David Oakes to move the East Haddam Sustainability Team meetings to the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Motion Seconded by Jesse Scott. Motion approved. Tanya Bourgoin abstained. Ms. Shaltiel said that if a better time was found the issue would be revisited.
    c. Energy Audits and Heat Pumps campaign grant: Jesse Scott reported: We were notified after 10 months of waiting that we are able to proceed with the grant for a term of one year to support 2 initiatives. The grant is for $20,000. The 2 focus areas are energy solution audits for low-income residents working with a map of disadvantaged communities in our town. Focus area 2 is acceleration of adoption of Heat Pumps among income eligible residents. Mr. Scott said that our objective is to sign up 11 homes for assessment of income eligible residents in 2024. Now that we have been awarded the grant. we have to go through 3 steps to receive the grant. The first step is approval by the BOS on the 6th of December. Approval by the BOF on December 11th and approval by the Town at the Town meeting on January 17th. The MOU was reviewed by the town lawyer to make sure that it passed legal requirements. We can inform Ms. Willemsen at Eversource that it is in the process of being approved, and after January 17th we are free to enter into the agreement for the entire year. Mr. Scott asked for the help of the team to help in the campaign. Irene Haines will be the designated signee for the grant. Mr. Scott will submit the monthly reports to Energize CT. Energize CT will provide us with onboard training. Mr. Scott explained the process of the energy audit and cost analysis and loan and subsidy programs. The objective is to get people to implement the measures recommended in the audits. He explained that we would be working with a few contractors. We would be interviewing prequalified contractors early next year that are already enrolled in the program. The Team would not be recommending any specific contractor. Mr. Scott asked for total team help. In a discussion of cost Mr Scott explained that some measures are at no cost. We will have to follow up with quality control and to see that the recommendations are implemented through subsidies from Eversource or on their own. Our intention is to have people's bills go down. Auditors are certified by BPI. Eversource will provide us with a list and it is up to us

to do the screening of auditors. There was a discussion about creation of subcommittee headed by Mr. Scott with Ms. Shaltiel, Mr. Bristol and Ms. Bourgoin. There was a discussion of FOI rules and the team decided to ask for some clarifications.

d. Report on workshops and initiatives – Green your Clean – Ms. Bourgoin may make short videos for our website instead of holding a workshop.
   Mr. Bristol will initiate the next Repair Café for early spring. He will approach Heather from Shagbark to see if they want to be involved.
   Kayle Lopez will initiate a composting workshop in the spring.
e. Media – No report
f. Team Reports –
   David Oakes – waiting for information from John Olin to complete the equity toolkit for the Community Resilience Building Workshop
   Jesse Scott will do the Energy Audits in 2024
   Tanya Bourgoin – will follow up on Idling Sign by bridge.
   Amalia Shaltiel – Will meet with assistant at Sustainable CT to move some actions forward. She will finish the Equity about composting and the Equity action about Broadband. Also, will be involved in advertising the Bond for open space that is coming to referendum on January 30. Ms. Shaltiel explained the importance and efficiency of the Bond. She will also help and asks the team to spread the word to help the Broadband Committee to reach their goal.
g. Volunteers and Liaison reports Cynthia Deming reported that the East Haddam Land Trust is gearing up to educat the public in support of the purchase of the Kroneberg Property behind the middle school and the Bond that will happen through a referendum on January 30th. The Town meeting is on January 17th. The EHLT has decorated a room in Gillette Castle. It is continuing in effort to reforest the Oak trees in some of the preserves, doing trail maintenance, looking for a couple of options of new Preserve spaces. Ms. Shaltiel asked if there was anything the Sustainability Team could do to help with the effort to support the Bonding and property purchase. Ms. Deming suggested going to the town meeting and writing a letter of support. Ms. Shaltiel volunteered to write a letter on behalf of the Sustainability Team.

5. New Business
   a. New Initiatives:
      Tanya Bourgoin – Suggested a toy swap or a clothes swap, for January or February. As this was done by Essex we will ask them for advice.
      Adam Bristol – Would like to take on the Plastic film collection for Trex Bench. There was a question of storage. Ms. Bourgoin is willing to bring it up to the rest of the Board of Selectmen once she has more information.
6. Audience of Citizens: No Audience of citizens as citizens were directed to Theresa's email. Ms. Shaltiel gave the right email to anyone who was interested with time for anyone interested to comment. No email was received.

7. Adjournment – Motion by David Oakes, Seconded by Tanya Bourgoin. Meeting adjourned at 8:11