MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, JAN. 16, 2024
ON-LINE MEETING (Committee)
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE (Public)
7:00PM

1. Meeting Called to Order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:04 – roll call: Present Tanya Bourgoin, Amalia Shaltiel, Matt Shea, Terri Garrity, Wade Tomlinson, Jesse Scott and Cynthia Deming – Liaison for East Haddam Land Trust

2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Jesse Scott, Seconded by Wade Tomlinson. Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Minutes: Meeting of Dec. 5, 2023 – Motion by Wade Tomlinson. Seconded by Jesse Scott. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. Unfinished Business
    a. New Members introduced themselves. Wade Tomlinson has experience as Sustainability director at a former school. Works at Franklin Academy, working with youth initiated farm which might be how he can contribute to the actions. Terri Garrity, member of the Board of Education, is interested in supporting children with special needs. Works out of organization called Little Compassion in Deep River and has marketing and media skills. She would like to bring ideas of improving accessibility in our public buildings and around town. Bringing sensory friendly amenities to our local events and to do disability awareness training.
    b. Energy Audits and Heat Pumps campaign – Jesse Scott reported that we passed two meeting approvals and that the final step was the vote the on January 17th at the town meeting. If passed, we can execute the agreement and invoice for the funding for the grant program. Ideally the outreach will be in the spring so that audits can take place during Spring and Summer. Mr. Scott described the steps of training, outreach and implementation. Ms. Shaltiel added the need for 3 Live Events for each campaign to get action points for the Energy Campaign in our Silver application this April. Also discussed was supporting electric signage for the town and the possibility of supporting small solar panels to power it if it happens. Further discussion was about how the audits work. Mr. Scott described the program in detail. Questions of reaching and educating all the population, including different languages, older homes and disseminating information about heat pumps, marketing and follow-up were discussed.
    c. Report on workshops and initiatives.
        i. Repair Café - No Report
        ii. Nextrex Recycling Challenge – Ms. Shaltiel explained the program of benches from plastic film. She asked Terri Garrity about the possibility of doing it with the schools. Ms. Garrity recommended sending board members to the Audience of Citizens part of BOE meeting to introduce the concept.
        iii. Toy Exchange – Ms. Bourgoin will create a structure for the Toy and clothes swap. When ready the Team can look at possible dates to do it. A short discussion about involving the schools followed with a conclusion to wait till Ms. Bourgoin creates the structure for the event.
        iv. Spring Composting Workshop – No Report
    d. Media: Matt Shea reported that he has been uploaded videos from our composting workshop to our youtube channel – http://www.youtube.com/@EastHaddamSustainabilityTeam . Mr. Shea suggested that we upload a video giving information of who we are and what we do and also that we should get

every initiative onto the Youtube channel asap so the information can be out there. He also discussed the difficulties in reaching different demographics on social media, Mr. Shea and Ms. Shaltiel will meet to figure out the connection between Instagram, Youtube and Facebook. Ms. Bourgoin is also willing to help with media connections. Ms. Bourgoin also volunteered to post any links that we wanted on to official town channels.

e. Silver Certification updates – Ms. Shaltiel reported that there is a deadline in mid April and that she is working on many actions. She shared the screen and explained the different actions in detail. She asked if anyone would like to help her. A short discussion ensued.
f. Team Reports –
    i. Tanya Bourgoin – Will check login for team email on town site. Ms. Bourgoin mentioned the Spring Fling. Ms. Shaltiel said the Sustainability Team would be there.
    ii. Wade Tomlinson talked about the school farm and the problems with composting and farming when students are not there. Has also volunteered to be Sustainability Director at Franklin Academy, but will wait till change in Academy Director. He is interested in transitioning to more solar energy at the school.. In the discussion Mr Scott mentioned the possibility of direct pay through the inflation reduction act for solar installation for nonprofits. Mr. Tomlinson asked about recycling batteries in town.
    iii. Matt Shea – Would like to promote different recycling drop-offs in town. Ms. Bourgoin suggested a flyer of all the recycling possibilities in town. Mr. Shea offered any help with Mr. Scott's project.
    iv. Terri Garrity – Would like to take on figuring out sensory friendly amenities in town events. She started brainstorming on what this would entail.
    v. Amalia Shaltiel– Asked about solar on municipal buildings. Ms. Bourgoin will look into that. A discussion ensued about the changes after the inflation reduction act that enables nonprofits and municipalities to get the tax credits for putting solar on their roofs and the longterm reduction of energy costs to the towns through putting up solar. The doubling of the cost of installing solar was mentioned. And also the Solsmart program which helps residents install solar. Ms. Bourgoin reiterated the importance of doing everything we can to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

g. Volunteers and Liaison reports
    i. Cynthia Deming reported on EHLT initiatives - the New Year Walk. Working on 5-year strategic plan.

5. New Business
    a. New Initiatives
        i. Sustainability Fair Event – Ms. Shaltiel suggested a sustainability fair event on March 16 at the Grange which would include energy audits, composting, Broad Band. In the discussion the timing was questioned. More discussion will be needed and availability of Grange. Ms. Garrity suggested approaching the East Haddam special needs parent group to see if they would like to have a table to hand out special needs resources.
        ii. Solsmart Program – Ms. Shaltiel will send the information to Ms. Bourgoin
        iii. Liaison with Conservation Commission – Ms. Shaltiel will attend the next Conservation Commission meeting. She also mentioned that we should create a logo for the team.

6. Audience of Citizens – none. A short discussion ensued about hybrid meetings.

7. Next meeting, February 20th, 2024, at 7:00 pm via zoom

8. Adjournment – motion Wade Tomlinson, seconded by Terri Garrity. Meeting adjourned at 8:32.