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

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Amalia Shaltiel at 7:05. Present: Tanya Bourgoin, Terri Garrity, Kayle Lopez, David Oakes, Jesse Scott, Amalia Shaltiel and joined by Wade Tomlinson. Also present Cynthia Deming, liaison for East Haddam Land Trust, and Amber McDonnell from Lantern Energy.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Kayle Lopez, Seconded by Jesse Scott. Agenda approved.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: Meeting of Feb. 20, 2024 – Motion by Kayle Lopez, Seconded by Wade Tomlinson. Minutes accepted.
4. **Chair Report/Correspondence** – Tanya Bourgoin reported – Email from Pete White of Rockfall Foundation inviting us to event on May 5th in Middlefield for educational workshop about managing invasive species in the back yard in collaboration with Everyone Outside. Ms. Bourgoin will see if she can go. Ms. Bourgoin also reported on the Climate Reality Conference that she attended for 3 days in NYC. She will share information and ideas with the group over time. She will be working with the Connecticut Climate Reality Chapter.
5. **Members and Team Structure** –
    a. Ms. Shaltiel brought up the situation of members who are not participating and the problem of making quorum. We have one potential member, but need a non-participating member to resign. Ms. Shaltiel will talk with Jim Ventres to see if he will be willing to change his status to liaison and so allow for a further member. Once that is done Ms. Bourgoin will bring it up with the BOS. Ms. Bourgoin also suggested that members check with friends to see if anyone would like to join the team.
    b. Ms. Bourgoin would like the team to consider holding hybrid meetings in the future. She has talked with Linda Zemienieski about having a room to do so. She is looking to initiate this in June or July. She hopes more face-to-face meetings will encourage volunteers to join. Ms. Shaltiel mentioned that volunteers are always welcome on the zoom meeting too.
    c. Ms. Shaltiel asked that members who would like to add items to the agenda do so by the Tuesday or Wednesday before the meeting so the agenda can go out by Friday morning. Also please let Ms. Bourgoin and her know if you are not going to attend.
6. 6. Unfinished Business
    a. Past Initiatives Reports
        i. Spring Fling– Ms. Bourgoin reported: The event went well. Estimates by East Haddam Land Trust parking helpers were that there were about 100-150 people. Ms. Shaltiel added that the Sustainability Team Table had a good number of people including people who signed up for energy assessments. Terri Garrity created a tent for neurodivergent children and adults who needed a safe place to rest out of the crowd. We hope to do that for other events to allow neurodivergent residents to be included and participate safely at events.
        ii. Chick Day - Kayle Lopez reported– The event went well and drew large crowds. More people signed up for energy assessments. We sold 2 or 3 composting buckets at sale price, and we talked about the coming composting workshop. Ms. Shaltiel commended the assistance of the Town with the tent and the transfer station crew with getting the buckets out.

iii. Silver Certification Submission – Ms. Shaltiel reported that the Silver Certification application was submitted on time on April 10 with 33 actions and 650 points. Results will be given by the end of May and if needed we can resubmit in August. Or we can go ahead with Climate Leader as we are very close to having enough points for that. Ms. Shaltiel thanked those who assisted in the submission. She mentioned Kayle Lopez who was responsible for two of the Equity actions with composting initiatives and the Equity Action of the Community Resilience Building workshop.

b. Ongoing Initiatives

i. Energy Assessments and Heat Pumps Campaign – Jesse Scott reported: The Energy Campaign is in full swing. We have taken care of administrative needs and had two events. The leadership team decided to use Lantern Energy as our dedicated contractor. They have a lot of experience in the area and Amber McDonnell, their representative, is a local resident. The team has met with the screen printers, and we are going to choose a logo for the T-shirts. We drafted a press release and have approval from the town. We are waiting for final approval from Eversource before sharing it with the newspaper. Jesse Scott and Matt Shea will work on the Google form which we can link to our Sustainability Page. We have 2 campaigns, one for Income Eligible Assessments and one for accelerating the adoption of Heat Pumps. We are going to do our first training on Heat Pumps soon. Mr. Scott is working with Terri Garrity on print material. We are also considering large yard signs. We met with other towns in the area, Middletown's experienced campaign and Essex which is just getting started. Canvassing will probably happen in May or June, targeting areas with income eligible customers. Ms. Shaltiel volunteered to be a Guinee pig for Home Energy Assessments and will have her assessment on April 17. We will use her experience for a case study. Mr. Scott introduced Amber McDonnell from Lantern Energy. She is a resident of the town. She oversees all home energy programs. The state covers insulation for income eligible customers as well as sealing homes. Ms. McDonnell answered questions and explained that they can perform home assessments on renter occupied properties. A simple landlord authorization form needs to be signed. Once signed Lantern Energy can schedule the assessment. Mr. Scott continued that Amber shared a lot of pertinent information about cost saving and financing programs and rebates. It's a seamless process from beginning to end. We want to have people do the recommendation to see if any money is saved and track greenhouse gas emission. Ms. Shaltiel said they would take a video of the assessment process to put on social media.

ii. Recycling – Ms. Bourgoin reported: She would like to expand beyond composting. She is looking into 2 companies that make benches. Timbertech and Trex and also researching Teracycle. She would like to work with them. Also set up a battery recycling program. Ms. Bourgoin suggests that as a team we push the messaging of how much single use plastic there is that can be recycled. Discussion about recycling ensued. Ms. Bourgoin will be the point person for recycling. Ms. Shaltiel suggested we visit our recycling center to know what can be recycled, and to approach Shagbark to be a weighing station for stretch plastic recycling. Ms. Bourgoin will also put information on our FB page from the Climate Conference she attended.

iii. Composting – Kayle Lopez reported that the Composting workshop is set for May 18 at Cold Spring Farm and Jess Stone will build a compost pile. Fliers were made and promotion started. Ms. Lopez will put an article in the paper a couple of weeks before the event. One question for the article is what happens with food scraps in the school. The other is other is about other farms that would accept food scraps.

c. Planned Initiatives

i. Repair Café and Sustainability Fair Event – Ms. Shaltiel suggested to aim for a time in June for the Repair Café. Discussion ensued about a Sustainability Fair to draw people

in with a mobile Demo bus about electricity. planning about location were discussed Sponsored by Energy Assessment. Target date was set towards early to mid September. Team will start brainstorming ideas.

7. **Team Reports:**
    a. David Oakes – Might not be able to make meetings in next few months because of coaching conflict.
    b. Amalia Shaltiel – Mentioned Broadband and asked Sustainability Team members to promote broadband with neighbors and friends. She is moving documentation of certification to Google site.
8. **Volunteers and Liaison reports** – Cynthia Deming reported on EHAL activity. They spent the last meeting reviewing a consultant report on membership and fundraising efforts. Ms. Shaltiel mentioned the EHAL in the Certification application, among other things in their initiative to eradicate invasives and protect growing Oaks.
9. New Business
    a. New Initiatives –Ms. Shaltiel put forward an idea of creating a scavenger hunt for the town. She asked people to start brainstorming. Ms. Bourgoin asked if anyone wanted to be in the Memorial Day Parade. We might use it for the Energy Campaign
10. Public Comments – No public comment
11. Next meeting May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm
12. Adjournment – Motion by Wade Tomlinson, Jesse Scott. Meeting Adjourned 8:18