MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, October 15, 2024
HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL (Committee)
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE (Public)
7PM

1. Call to Order: 7:05PM by Ms. Bourgoin. In attendance in person: Tanya Bourgoin, Amalia Shaltiel, Amber McDonnell, David Oakes. Via zoom: Terri Garrity, Cynthia Deming, Nora Myers, Jesse Scott (via phone). Guests: David Price, Russ Kaplan (East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force). Alan Ponanski joined at 7:23PM.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Garrity. Agenda approved.
3. Approval of August meeting minutes: Motion by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Shaltiel. Minutes approved.
4. Introduction to East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force: Mr. Oakes offered to assist East Hampton in any way with Sustainable CT accreditation, he has done this with East Haddam and Bristol and is an East Hampton native. Suggested credit for things the town has done already: mentoring, pollinator pathways, Airline Trail. Ms. Shaltiel suggested connecting them with the RiverCOG. Talk to Amy Thompson about benchmarking. East Hampton is committed to the HeatSmart program, initiated by PACE. **HeatSmart webinar on Monday 10/28 6PM, participation is encouraged:**
   HeatSmart 101
   https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82794809853?pwd=UstkJN7D9QvSJabQqLaEGdbO6ELDbu.1
   Meeting ID: 827 9480 9853
   Passcode: 516092

4. Update from Lauren Masterson re: sustainability efforts at NHRMS – she could not attend this meeting but provides this update: recycling initiative continues, campaign against Styrofoam will continue after the holidays.

5. Chair and Team Reports

   i) Climate Leader Certification from Sustainable CT update (Ms. Shaltiel) – Climate Leader Certification achieved! Points earned for 25% of the town's electricity coming from solar array at Shagbark, energy use has decreased > 10% via LEDs, open space, energy campaign, CPACE agreement, nature conservancy, forest management, invasive species, and Ms. Shaltiel wrote a resiliency assessment**. Climate Leader Certification award night is 11/13 at The Kate in Old Saybrook.** Participation encouraged. Register here: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6w5kgym?mode=preview&source_id=deef0584-3c22-48c3-ab75-18a18eb0862e&source_type=em&c=

      Public workshop on the **Resilient East Haddam Project on 10/24 6:30PM-8:30PM at the Municipal Office Building, participation is encouraged.**

   ii) Energy Assessments and Heat Pumps Campaign, East Hampton EV Show (Mr. Scott, Ms. McDonnell, Ms. Shaltiel) – Income Eligible program has come to a slow until 4/1/25 due to budget constraints, market rate is still busy. Sustainability Team will interview another vendor to use in the interim for Income Eligible. Terri created an energy assessment rack for mailers, etc.

   iii) Equity Conversations (Ms. Garrity) – BOE update: met today w/ DOJ. Middle School introduced a new initiative, the School Spirit program, which encourages conflict resolution. Selected students will be trained in problem resolution by community members, not educators. Starts on 11/22. For more info, watch 10/9 BOE meeting video. Ms. Garrity is one of the community members being trained in a similar fashion for citizens of the town. School is looking for town citizens to help facilitate, contact the BOE if interested. Mr. Ponanski asked if there is a way for parents to be included and educated through literature, materials, etc. Per Ms. Garrity, the format is more through dialogue and real-time communication. Ms. Ponanski feels that character is built at home, so parents/families should be informed and educated about this. The question remains: how do we document this?

   iv) Recycling Initiatives (Ms. Bourgoin) – nothing new to add, in talks with Heather about recycling the "hard to recycle" items (plastic film, etc.)

   v) Composting (Ms. Lopez) – not present

6. Volunteers and Liaison reports

Ms. Deming – **Goodwin Trail Challenge on Sunday 11/10 8AM-5PM from** Franklin Academy. More info: https://www.ehlt.org/goodwin-trail-challenge New bells in the preserves. Will do a scarecrow downtown. In process of being reaccredited. Check website/fb for upcoming events. Who is doing the Sustainability Scarecrow this year?

7. Old Business

i) Discussion of Conservation Commission Memo on Trees – Ms. Shaltiel is extremely upset that 8 large trees were removed in front of her home that were not marked for removal. She will be bringing this up to the Board of Selectman. She was given erroneous information: was told Ms. Velez, the tree warden, would be there when the trees were cut down (she was not), was told trees that were not marked would not be cut but pruned (that did not happen). Ms. Shaltiel feels these are sentient beings who have lives of their own, they are being murdered. Mr. Ponanski suggests forming a tree committee/ citizens task force to come up with ideas, find someone who has the knowledge to make recommendations to the town for criteria for tree removal.

ii) Finished initiatives (repair café) – not discussed

8. New Business

i) Newsletter format (Terri Garrity) – not discussed

9. Audience of Citizens – N/A

10. Announcements

Sustainability Team will have a table at Project Safe Halloween. Ms. Bourgoin and Ms. Shaltiel will table.

Harvest House – November date is taken, will wait til next year.

11. Next meeting November 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm

12. Adjournment – motioned by Mr. Oakes at 8:36PM, Ms. Garrity 2nd. Meeting adjourned.