Sustainability Team Meeting minutes 11/19/24

In attendance (in person): Amalia Shaltiel, Amber McDonnell, Terri Garrity, Tanya Bourgoin

Virtual: Kayle Lopez, Wade Tomlinson

Member of the public: Tom Baird

1. Call to order: Called to order 7:27PM (late start due to quorum issues)
2. Approval of agenda: Motion by Ms. Garrity, Ms. McDonnell second. All in favor, agenda approved.
3. Approval of October minutes: Motion by Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Bourgoin second. All in favor, minutes approved.
4. Team Members and Structure
    a. Adam Bristol – officially resigned, approved by BOS on 11/6/24.
    b. 2025 meeting dates – secured the 3rd Tues of each month as approved by the team
5. Chair and Team Reports
    a. SustainableCT awards ceremony (Ms. Shaltiel): members present included Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. McDonnell, Mr. Scott, Mr Oakes (awarded gold for Bristol also), Mr. John Olin. Wonderful event. East Haddam is close to gold certification, will achieve next year.
    b. Energy assessments and heat pumps campaign – Ms. McDonnell suggested connecting East Haddam with PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy) to promote energy assessments. East Hampton is also connected with PACE, possibility to involve all RiverCOG.
    c. Equity conversations (Ms. Garrity) – two projects in the works: one with dialogue on race, ran into an issue with childcare for that project. Still going to set up a sensory area but will be limited in what we can do for childcare. Project two: connections over the bridge and parent training for neurodivergent children. The intention is to host one event per quarter to allow parents to socialize while their children are engaged in activities. We do have time to crowd fund, website for that is in progress, hoping the community will buy into it. Ms. Garrity has spoken with SustainableCT for funding and worked with BOF to move forward. Goal is to launch program in January.
    d. Recycling initiatives (Ms. Bourgoin) – new priority is Foam Cycle, waiting for a response from them. Overall goal is to do whatever possible to reduce items in the waste stream. Ms. Shaltiel suggests checking progress on Foam Cycle in 2 months.
    e. Composting (Ms. Lopez) – nothing new to report. Ms. Shaltiel suggested organizing another composting workshop in the spring at Balleks.
    f. Open space (Ms. Bourgoin): open space commission did a site walk to discuss transfer of Sprecker property to the Harris property for the purposes of extending the trail system
6. Volunteers and Liaison reports: nothing to report
7. New Business

a. Mr. Tomlinson asked if the Sustainability Team has any input on the proposed HVAC system for the schools in town. Per Ms. Bourgoin, this is not a brand new system, it is an energy efficient upgrade that would be most cost effective and timely measure that was approved by BOS. Sustainability Team does not have input on this, but can advocate for solar panels. Ms. Garrity suggests attending the BOE audience of citizens meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month) to voice these ideas.
b. Planning for 2025 – Ms. McDonnell suggests an Earth Day celebration: repair café, composting workshop, toy swap, etc. on Earth Day 4/22/25. Ms. Bourgoin suggests Heritage Park as the location.
    i. Ms. Shaltiel is going to reserve the grange once a month for various events (repair cafe, community conversations, speakers, etc.) Members encouraged to provide their availability.
c. December 2024 meeting – motion by Ms. Bourgoin to cancel, Ms. Garrity second. All approved.

8. Audience of Citizens – nothing to report
9. Announcements – nothing to report
10. Next meeting: Tuesday January 21, 2025 7PM.
11. Meeting adjourned: Motion by Ms. Garrity, Ms. Shaltiel second. Meeting adjourned 8:19AM.