



MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order 7:11PM

- a. In person: Tanya Bourgoin, Amalia Shaltiel, Amber McDonnell. Via Zoom: Jesse Scott, Kayle Lopez, Nora Myers, Cynthia Deming. (Mr. Scott left @ 7:20PM after voting was complete. Discussion continued.)

2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Ms. Shaltiel, seconded by Mrs. McDonnell. Agenda approved.

3. Approval of January 21st meeting minutes – Motion by Mrs. McDonnell, seconded by Ms. Myers. Minutes approved.

4. Co-Chair Reports

- a. Ms. Bourgoin: Sustainability Team email inbox has been busy re: the termination of the Blue Earth composting contract at the Transfer Station. These emails have been forwarded to BOS. Ms. Bourgoin had asked for more time for our team to promote before cancelling. Irene Haines made the decision to terminate the contract on 3/31. Ms. Bourgoin feels it is very important for the Sustainability Team to advocate for the reinstatement of this contract. Any concerned residents should email all 3 BOS and copy Sustainability Team. Mrs. McDonnell suggested a petition. Ms. Bourgoin and Mrs. McDonnell will initiate a meeting with BOE to get Blue Earth set up at public schools.

- b. Amalia:

5. Membership

- a. New member Alan Ponanski – Mr. Ponanski is involved in the Conservation Commission, Land Trust and Gateway Commission. He has a background in law and has worked with the attorney general. Ms. Shaltiel made a motion to vote him in as a member, seconded by Ms. McDonnell. All in favor.

6. Team Reports:

- i) PACE presentation updates – Ms. Shaltiel wants to have a zoom meeting with Valentina from Eversource, she is in charge of benchmarking. Valentina or Mr. Oakes need to talk with Mark Scully @ PACE.
- ii) Energy Assessments, Heat Pumps Campaign, Heat Smart (Jesse Scott, Amber McDonnell, Amalia Shaltiel) – funding for HES-IE has been replenished so both programs are in full swing with Lantern Energy. Mr. Scott and Ms. McDonnell met with Irene Haines on 3/3/25 to get the ball rolling with HeatSmart East Haddam. Ms. Haines called this a “no brainer”. Ball is in her court, waiting on signed MOU and letter to residents. Ms. McDonnell/Mr. Scott to follow up via email for status update.
- iii) Recycling Initiatives (Tanya Bourgoin) –BOS has moved hazardous waste from SCRRA, closest collection site was 21 miles away. We are switching to join RiverCOG, far more convenient for residents to dispose of paint, oil, batteries, etc. New library director is on board with putting plastic film bins at one of the libraries, possibly the transfer station, maybe hometown market. New recycling machine in Barkhamsted manufactured by FoamCycle, public works person is very excited about it. Ms. Bourgoin wants to go see it, anyone interested in joining her?
- iv) **Equity Conversations (Amalia Shaltiel)** – the next Dialogue on Race is set for Thursday 4/3

6:30PM at the MOC.

v) Other Team member reports

(1) Composting: Ms. Lopez – workshop has been set for 4/27 11AM-12PM at Ballek's with Nancy. More of a sustainable gardening workshop, not just composting. Ten steps in the garden toward a more sustainable world (rain barrels, native plants, etc)

7. New Business

a. Suggested initiatives for 2025

- i. Spring Fling this Sunday @ Machimoodus 12PM-3PM
- ii. Community conversations – last one was extremely successful, great group made a big venn diagram. Next one is Sat 3/29 2PM-5PM at the Grange (youth & family services, Ray of Light, land trust, 8 mile river, religious organizations, veterans – anyone looking for volunteers)
- iii. Repair Café – postponed to 5/10, Haddam is having theirs 4/5
- iv. Earth Day Celebration and Compost workshop – Sunday 4/27 at the Town Beach, Balleks, possibly more TBD
- v. Communications survey – going on slowly, interesting results – people prefer email

b. 2025 calendar of events

8. Volunteers and Liaison reports

a. Land Trust volunteer appreciation day on 4/29

9. New Business – look into Harvest House

Other agenda items were postponed to next month's meeting as they were not urgent, and we no longer had quorum.

10. Next meeting April 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Public participants may come to the meeting or view the meeting on YouTube Live at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA?view_as=subscriber

You may also access the YouTube Live link from the Town's website: www.easthaddam.org

Questions/comments may be sent to sustainability.team@easthaddam.org prior to and during the meeting.

Questions/comments will be read aloud during the "Audience of Citizens" section of the meeting.

Questions/comments and responses will be included in the minutes and posted on the town website.

Every effort will be made to provide responses during the meeting.