MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. **Call to Order** 7:09PM by Ms. Shaltiel (connection issues until 7:15PM)
    a. In person: Amalia Shaltiel, Jesse Scott, Nora Myers, Amber McDonnell. Via Zoom: Tanya Bourgoin, Alan Ponanski, David Oakes. Guest: John Carnell
2. **Approval of Agenda**. Nora moved, Alan second. All in favor, agenda approved.
3. **Approval of June 17th meeting minutes**. Ms. McDonnell motioned, Mr. Ponanski 2nd, Mr. Scott abstained. All in favor, minutes approved.
4. **Team membership**
    a. Introduction of guest John Carnell, resident of East Haddam as of Sept 2023. Passionate about sustainability and nature. He will consider becoming a new member of the Sustainability Team if his schedule allows.
5. **Co-Chair Reports**
    a. Ms. Bourgoin: Recycling and composting updates – waiting on callback to schedule tour of Styrofoam recycling facility. Would like to push recycling initiatives starting in September for final Heritage Market. Ms. Shaltiel asked about plastic film recycling; per Ms. Bourgoin, finding the dropoff location is easy, coordinating the bundling and storage and delivery of the plastic film is more difficult. They do this in Bristol; Mr. Oakes will connect Ms. Bourgoin with Lindsey Rivers in his office about this. Ms. Shaltiel says Shagbark has a scale where we can weigh the plastic film, can they be a dropoff point? Ms. Bourgoin says they need to have 500lb bundles. Mr. Oakes says storage can be tricky if you are not prepared for it. Mr. Oakes will connect Ms. Bourgoin with Lindsey Rivers, and Ms. Bourgoin will reach out to Stop & Shop.
        i. No emails to the sustainability inbox.
    b. Ms. Shaltiel: Gold Certification submission updates and Equity tool kit discussion on community conversations – Gold Cert due 8/20, we have all components including the Equity Statement from the Board of Ed, it is available on the school website. Ms. Shaltiel sent out the conversation narrative; need to have conversation about next steps. Where would we like to go with all the information we received from community conversations? Ms. Myers feels there is a need for places for the community at large; we are not meeting the needs of the people in our town; can we have a congregation point? Are we utilizing our town buildings to the maximum? There are a lot of people who live here who are falling through the cracks. Mr. Ponanski feels we need to set specific goals. Ms. McDonnell, Mr. Scott & Mr. Oakes did not comment on the conversation narrative.
6. **Old Business**
        i. July Heritage Market – Ms. McDonnell - obtained 13 signatures on the "bring back composting" petition. (Side note: when advertising this on the East Haddam/Moodus Info Swap FB page, Irene Haines commented "We have composting. There's a new drop off location, Cold Spring Farm." Residents are petitioning to bring back a one-stop drop off location at the transfer station that includes bones, spoiled food, citrus peels, etc.) Idea: set a goal of 50 signatures. Ms. Myers offered to have it at the transfer station on a Saturday.

a) **Coming Initiatives** (Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. McDonnell)
    i) **August Heritage Market** – focus on pollinator pathways, composting petition, HES. Ms. Shaltiel asked Susan Kinsman to write something for this and sell butterfly garden posts for

fundraiser.

ii) **August Community Conversation** – last weekend in August, topic not yet identified. Mr. Ponanski asked if we have plans to pass out literature of our sustainability topics at Musical Bridges or Music on the River, Mondays 6PM. Ms. Shaltiel suggested having a table in the entranceway, Ms. Bourgoin will ask at the BOS meeting.

iii) **Energy Assessments, Heat Pumps Campaign, Heat Smart (Jesse Scott)** – letter to residents is with the printer, includes verbiage about no cost copays, will go out in the next week or two. Eversource approved the verbiage. Ms. Shaltiel obtained permission from Don Angersola to put a plastic stand under our plaques for flyers. Ms. Myers spoke with town clerk, suggests putting it down near the clerk's office and where voter registration is. She feels strongly that we should be visible and follow where people naturally congregate. Ms. Bourgoin suggested putting time sensitive info near town clerk, using the space under our plaques for permanent signage. Ms. Shaltiel suggested Jesse put an ad in the town newspaper; can reach out to RiverCOG for their template for the ad so they don't have to. Jesse suggested getting a nicer wooden frame for our stuff instead of plastic to match the aesthetic in the hallway. Can use CPI grant funds.

iv) **Pollinator Pathways** - asked Susan Kinsman to write something up for this and sell butterfly garden posts for fundraiser.

v) **Other Team Member Reports** – Ms. Myers hopes someday we will consider making East Haddam known for something in recycling: upcycling. She has lived in countries where they gather plastic film and knit together something, take fabric remnants and make something of it. Think of a cottage industry: reclaimed wood, etc. Think further than recycling to bring an opportunity for people to be skill-oriented and take something and create something else of it. Ms. Shaltiel mentioned hosting upcycling workshops for the public. Asked Mr. Ponanski to make a list of the Conservation Commission initiatives (No Mow May, eradication of invasive species, etc.) for us to promote. Ms. Myers: how do we rally more veterans to be involved with the town? Ms. Bourgoin suggested inviting them to our next meeting.

7. New Business

a. Harvest House – Ms. Myers compiled list of Sundays: 8/17, 8/31, 9/28, 10/12, 11/23, 11/30, 12/28. Ms. Myers will be the point person regarding Harvest House going forward. Ms. McDonnell will send a calendar invite with the dates they can attend so we can see if we have enough people. Please respond ASAP.

8. Volunteers and Liaison reports - none

9. Audience of Citizens - none

10. Announcements

i) Come to Music on the River! Starts at 6:30PM, get there early, bring a picnic

ii) The public hearing for the roadway bonding package is tomorrow night at 7PM.

11. Next meeting August 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm

12. Adjournment. Jesse made a motion, Alan 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:36PM.

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.