MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order 7:06PM
    a. In attendance (in person): Amalia Shaltiel, Amber McDonnell, Jay Fortner, Alan Ponanski, David Oakes. Via Zoom: Tanya Bourgoin, Jesse Scott). Member of the public: Tyler Semrow. Guest presenter: Geremy Schulick
2. Approval of Agenda: Alan motioned, David second. All in favor.
3. Approval of September meeting minutes: David motioned, Jay second. All in favor.
4. Co-Chair Reports
    a. Ms. Bourgoin – lots of interest in touring the recycling facility, needs help coordinating scheduling. No emails/correspondence to the sustainability inbox.
    b. Ms. Shaltiel – started a line of credit with the town after receiving donations from the repair café. Can be used toward our various initiatives. Amalia is working on a PowerPoint to present to the BOS, would like to present in December to showcase what we have done this year.
5. SustainableCT webinar: Charging Smart
    a. Geremy – Charging Smart – slide deck will be emailed to attendees of this meeting
6. Old Business
    i. Heat Smart Campaign (Jesse Scott) – 2 weeks ago Jesse presented to the BOS, well received and appreciated. Per Amalia's call with Deven Willemsen: through end of Sept, completed 32 HES, scheduled 56, 10 IE completed and 7 scheduled. Do we want to get involved with SBEA? Training with RiverCOG upcoming. Next year create an energy day/energy fair? Would require a lot of preparation, could involve other towns, Youth & Family services, EVs, maybe around Earth Day.
    ii. Pollinator Pathways (Amalia Shaltiel) – we are officially part of pollinatorpathways.org, looking for pictures of gardens to add to the website. Residents are encouraged to register their garden on the pollinator pathway (no spray, must have at least some native plants). Requested approval via email to Team Members to purchase the medallions, did not get enough responses so she purchased them on her own. 6 6" medallions, 3 larger medallions purchased wholesale and can be sold as $20 for larger, $10 for smaller, each as a fundraiser. David offered to purchase the larger medallions on his own to put them in the gardens at the schools. Alan made a motion to reimburse this amount to Amalia thru our fund, Amber seconded, unanimously approved. We will reforward the email to everyone with pictures of the medallions. Alan suggested having townwide initiative "No Mow May". Alan would like to get a speaker to elaborate on that initiative.
    iii. Gold Certifications (Amalia Shaltiel)
        Ceremony 10/28 Goodspeed 4PM-7PM Amalia encourages everyone to go on easthaddamschools.org to view the equity statement, thanks Patricia Stricker. We thank Amalia, Tanya and Amber for coordinating, and Summer and Dorothy from SustainableCT. David offers high praise. If you have not yet registered, please do so. Celebrate afterward at Tavern on the Hill or Cactus Bistro?
    iv. Recycling and composting (Tanya Bourgoin) – nothing to report
    v. August Community Conversation – (Amalia Shaltiel) – still working on last summary. Currently working on a community calendar, looking at CIVICLIFT. How to use municipal spaces, how to engage youth (we have a Senior Center but we don't have a

Youth Center) – possibility at First Church? Alan offered to come up with an outline to present to our team on this as the moderator for First Church. David suggested doing a Youth Day, take them on a hike.

vi. October Repair Cafe (Amalia Shaltiel) – very successful, will do it again in the spring. Coming up with a brochure of repair cafes going on each month in the RiverCOG towns like we have for hazardous waste

vii. Riverfest, October 18 – Alan – by far the best event he has seen. Jay felt it was very well attended, many people stopped at the table to ask questions. Impressed by how many people saw the proposal to bring back composting, their first words were "I compost at home, but I want others to be able to do it there". Lots of interest in the pollinator pathway, several younger people displayed enthusiasm. Alan shouted out to everyone who participated, Moodus Sportsman's Club has great free food, cider, cookies. Organizations that support the 8 Mile River Watershed were there, added lots of great conversation. Shout out to DEEP for allowing cars to park on grassy areas which was critical. Many who came in just to hike were able to park because the land trust were able to assist with traffic. Very smooth and well organized festival. Perfect weather. Amalia thanks 8 Mile River and all who organized this.

viii. East Haddam's scarecrow contest (Amalia Shaltiel) – Amber thanks Amalia for creating the scarecrow. It's located going up the hill across from the sweet shop. If you drive by, please straighten it out.

a) Coming Initiatives
   i) Project Safe Halloween Friday **10/31 5PM-8PM**
   ii) Harvest House **11/23** (Nora Myers) – Amber, Jay, David, and Nora are committed. An email will be sent to committed members to discuss menu and specifics.
   iii) Other Team Member Reports

Amber: planning next year's meetings. Need to vote on alternate dates at the next meeting and will need to make sure rooms are available. Email Tyler Semrow for his availability.

7. New Business
   a. Planning Next year's events (Alan Ponanski) – no report, will have one next time
8. Volunteers and Liaison reports
   a. Tyler Semrow: organizing a community cleanup, so far has 384lbs of litter with a goal of 500lbs. Amalia feels it is difficult to schedule at the end of the year, can we resurrect the town cleanup that used to happen in the spring that Jim Ventres organized? suggested coordinating with the scouts, troop 22. Boardman Rd is a hot spot for trash. Amber suggested connecting with girl scouts and the Leos, Tanya will make connections. Amber and Jay available Saturday 11/8 9AM-12PM. We will post on social media.
9. Audience of Citizens
10. Announcements – great job East Haddam, gold certified!
11. Next meeting 11/18/25 7:00PM
12. Adjournment – David motion, Amber second. Adjourned 8:42PM

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.