MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order 7:04PM
    a. In person: Amalia Shaltiel and Honora Myers.
    Via Zoom: Jesse Scott, David Oakes, Alan Ponanski and Jay Fortner.
2. Approval of Agenda
    a. Ms. Myers motioned, Mr. Ponanski second. All in favor, the motion carries.
3. Approval January and February 2026 meeting minutes
    a. Ms. Shaltiel motioned, Dr. Fortner second. No discussion, all in favor.
4. Co-Chair Reports
    a. Structure of the Sustainability Team will be reconsidered by the Board of Selectmen by changing from 8 members to 7 members and 3 alternates. Therefore, changing quorum from 6 to 4 members.
    b. Mr. Ponanski commented that the Conservation Commission would like to work more closely at this level with the team.
5. Membership and Admin
    a. Amber McDonnell has served this team with extraordinary commitment and significantly contributioned to the success of the team's efforts. The team should plan to show our appreciation for Ms. McDonnell's contributions by asking Sustainable CT and the Town of East Haddam for certificates of appreciation.
    b. Mr. Ponanski motioned, Ms. Shaltiel second a motion to nominate Honora Myers to serve as recording secretary for the team.
6. Old Business
    a. Earth Day Activities
        i. The team is actively posting information on Facebook and posting flyers within the community.
        ii. This year there is collaboration with the East Haddam Land Trust, First Congregational Church on Town Street, East Haddam Senior Center, Shagbark, Ballek's, Yankee Cider Barn, Moodus Sportsmen Club, East Haddam Garden Club, Democrat Town Committee, and town residents.
        iii. Focus this year continues to build on the team's emphasis on creating and supporting events that make an impact on our community.
    b. Next Repair Cafe is planned for Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the Grange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
    c. We continue to author short articles for the East Haddam News. The goal is to submit articles of 300 words focused on sustainability and how to connect with resources in town.
    d. Sustainability CT awarded East Haddam special funding and town priorities should be identified soon by team members. Ms. Shaltiel will resend the list of possible projects. Once the funds are disbursed, the project must be completed within that calendar year.
7. New Business

a. The team is signed up to be present for five of this year's "Heritage Market".
b. As we look further at the calendar, we are hoping for more interactive events for each month.
c. America 250 will be celebrated on July 11, 2026. Although we have not received any invitation to attend town planning meetings, we will be delighted to support and assist as needed.
d. There is only one email associated with the Sustainability Team and we will ask Linda Zeminski if it is possible to add Amalia Shaltiel to access incoming email correspondence.

8. Volunteers and Liaison reports
9. Audience of Citizens – nothing to report
10. Announcements – nothing to report
11. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 6:30PM
12. Adjournment: 8:20PM

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.