MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order 7:03PM
    a. In person: Amalia Shaltiel Jay Fortner, Tanya Bourgoin. Via Zoom: Jesse Scott, David Oakes Alan Polanski, , Honora Myers, and invited guest speaker Deb Roe representing PACE.
2. Approval of Agenda
    a. Dr. Fortner motioned. Ms. Myers second. All in favor, the motion carries.
3. Approval of April meeting minutes
    a. Ms. Shaltiel motioned, Dr. Fortner second. No discussion, all in favor.
4. Presentation from Public Action for Cleaner Energy (PACE) Deb Roe:
    a. PACE is introducing a new initiative as part of a transition to 100% cleaner energy in reaction to a brief slowdown on momentum and this new hub should be considered a call to action. New Clean Energy Revolution (NiCER) will be maintained by PACE but supported using our combined skills to make available action oriented tool kits in a digital library based on topic. This will be a way to connect organizations with interested volunteers. NiCER as the tool and resources hub will be the "211" for how to move clean energy efforts forward with results.

After the presenter left the meeting, a brief discussion was initiated to determine whether or not to participate in NiCER. Mr. Ponanski asked that the team focus this year on "Home Grown National Park" as this is reasonably attainable.

Motion from Ms. Bourgoin with a second from Ms. Shaltiel, to join the NiCER movement with the understanding that the team can opt out at anytime. Motion passed with one abstention.

5. Old Business
    a. Report on activities since last meeting.
        i. Solar Presentation. Ms. Bourgoin will follow up with more information on how solar energy is being redefined and have a presentation set up for either this team meeting platform or at a larger format at the town level.
        ii. River COG collective. More awareness is needed.
        iii. Cross collaboration with other town efforts. Consider joint press releases and encourage attendance at town events.
        iv. Administration of team members. One person should decide to become an alternate and this would give the team seven members and three alternates which would then bring quorum to four.

    b. Clean Up Day turned out to be an excellent day with enthusiasm.
    c. Although the Doug Tallamy night went well there was not enough attendance and hopefully it can be scheduled again.
    d. Repair Cafe. Over thirty attendees and the concept is catching on. Next one will be in October.

e. EH News articles. Alan is working on an article now. Nora will focus on paint recycling. Tanya will work on how to distinguish misinformation from corporations misleading the public on the dangers of pesticides, and post information on the team's FB page on how to deal with mosquitos naturally and use yellow bulbs outside to protect moths.
f. Home Energy Campaign. If residents sign up, they will receive a complimentary yellow bulb. Team up with other towns and ask the church community to post flyers to share the information and promote this effort.
g. SMART Program and EV stations. Pursue the bronze level in the charging program.

6. New Business.
    a. New season of Heritage Market and the team will be at each one from 4 to 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month from May to September,
    b. The team would like to ask the Homegrown National Park/Doug Tallamy website administrators if they can share the map of East Haddam registered members.
    c. Community Giving Garden. As a town committee, we may have opportunities and ideas to share with the town's community garden program that would make a greater impact on our residents.Grow to give to the town food bank. "Enhance your life with a garden" is a possible theme to carry forward. Create a demonstration space with the community garden to encourage and allow a toolshed to be set up to share tools, Pick a marshy area to encourage pollinators.
    d. Prize ideas need to be discussed further and may include placing an EV charger at the high school or at the town grange. Funding the middle school trail.
    e. Plastic Film Recycling. Ms. Bourgoin will have an update at the next meeting. Plastic film includes any clear packaging such as bread bags, bubble wrap, and large sheets of clear film wrapping from consumer products.

7. Volunteers and Liaison reports
8. Audience of Citizens
9. Announcements
10. Next meeting Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 6:30PM
11. Dr. Fortner motioned to adjourn with a second from Ms. Bourgoin. Meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.

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.