

**Minutes Special SUSTAINABILITY TEAM  
TUESDAY, June 13th, 2023**

1. **Call to Order** – By Amalia Shaltiel at 7:05. Present at the beginning of meeting are members Theresa Govert, Jesse Scott, Adam Bristol, Tanya Bourgoïn, Amalia Shaltiel and David Oakes and Volunteer soon to be member Matt Shae. Theresa Govert left to attend town hearing
2. **New Members** - Ms. Shaltiel extended welcome to new member Tanya Bourgoïn and to soon to Matt Shae who is planning to put in his application to become a member. She again mentioned the need for a non-Democrat member to fill the tenth slot of the Sustainability Team.
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion by Tanya Bourgoïn, Seconded by Jesse Scott. In Discussion Ms. Shaltiel asked to add meeting with Summer Fellows to the Agenda. Agenda approved unanimously.
4. **Acceptance of Minutes** - Meeting of April 4th, 2023. Motion by Jesse Scott, Seconded by Amalia Shaltiel. Minutes unanimously approved.
5. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Ms. Shaltiel again mentioned that we now need one member. Having a full slate will make it easier to have a quorum even when members are absent for emergencies. Mr. Scott suggested that we do a round Robin to introduce ourselves and get to know our new members. Each member introduced themselves and provided a brief statement about who they are and why they choose to serve on the Sustainability Team.
  - b. **Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Workshop Final Report** – Ms Shaltiel sent the link to the final report to all members and it is available here <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/3q1x5m6o5fun7my4zkuzvqlyvoz2nsl>  
She reported that the workshop was very successful attended by Mr. Oakes and herself. Mr. John Olin, the head of the Climate Resilience subcommittee in the Conservation Commission organized the people for the workshop including First Selectwoman Irene Haines, the Emergency Management team, Michele Velez, manager of Public Works, many businesses in town and service people. The list of people who attended the workshop is in the final report. There was input from community members and officials in preparation for the workshop and then input from workshop participants. Ms. Shaltiel described the the way the facilitators organized and tabulated the information from all participants with other information from maps and town reports to create the Final Report. The core group, who were instrumental in organizing the workshop and includes Ms. Shaltiel will be meeting to decide on some initiatives to work on but the Sustainability Team is also privy to the information and can see if there are issues we would like to focus on from the report. Ms. Shaltiel requested that the team look at the report so we could start an email exchange about it.  
Mr. Oakes. will look into the Equity action associated with the report. Mr. Scott has looked at it and commented that it was very comprehensive. Ms Shaltiel mentioned that we can get points for the CRB itself and also for 13.1 but she doesn't understand that completely, and will get more clarification. Mr Oakes will be in charge of the documentation. Ms. Shaltiel also mentioned that the with support of Ms. Haines the Core Group is planning an unofficial town forum to discuss the results with other members of the town . This will be done in the fall, probably September.
  - c. **Report on Status of Grant for Energize Connecticut Community Partnership Initiative:** Jesse Scott reported that Eversource had given us a short time for the deadline to apply for the grant and were supposed to give us an answer in April, and now in mid-June we have no answer. Mr. Scott summarized the Grant process: Energize CT has community grants for programs to get the word out on Eversource programs. We applied for free home energy audits and for electrification for heat pumps. We got the support of the town to be the fiduciary agent for the grant. We hope get the money we could run a campaign. It is part of Eversource's goal with PURA, the regulatory authority to run these programs and they are outsourcing it to us. It benefits our community as we reduce energy consumption for our residents, especially low and moderate income residents. We are still optimistic that we will get the grant but will have to change the timeline to go into 2024. Ms. Shaltiel

added that such a campaign was one of the actions for Climate Leader.

- d. **Composting Initiatives:** Kayle Lopez sent a report as she couldn't be at the meeting. A date has been set for a fall composting workshop on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Ballek's. Ms. Shaltiel noted that the first workshop was very well received. Ms. Lopez will be composting with the middle school garden club through the summer and that might be able to be used for the Climate Leader initiative. Food waste can now be collected at the weekly farmer's market in addition to the town transfer station. Ms. Lopez will be working on a new article for the town paper soon. In Discussion Ms. Shaltiel mentioned Ms. Lopez's work with Jess Stone and initiatives of of Sustainability teams in Chester and Deep River and Essex in composting and recycling. Mr. Shea is interested in connecting with those teams. Ms. Bourgoin responded to a question about composting in Machimoodus State Park that at present there is no composting initiative, but she will bring the possibility up with the new park supervisor.
- e. **Report on discussion with Jess LeClaire on Climate Leadership designation:** Ms Shaltiel added the meeting with the Fellows to this section. Ms. Shaltiel had sent the group the climate leader application as discussed with Jess LeClair. She shared the document on the screen with the group and it is attached to the minutes. The document includes notes with programs and people we can contact for some of the actions. A discussion ensued about the possibility of using the fundraising for the new Boy Scout Container. David Oakes will look into it. Mr. Scott will try and get help from Theresa Govert about the Building Audits and lighting. Ms. Shaltiel will ask Ms. Govert about reduction of solid waste.  
Ms. Shaltiel reported on her meeting with Summer Mitchell and Devin Sturtivant, the two fellows assigned to River COG who will work with us this summer. The Fellows reassured Ms. Shaltiel that there is no rush with the Climate Leader initiative as it would be better to connect it to the Silver Certification rather than the Bronze we received last year. This way it will count forward and not backwards. We will do what we can by August and get feedback on those actions and then move on in a better state next year. Ms. Shaltiel shared the chart the Fellows created for the Team to help us know what we need to do for each action.  
Adam Bristol created a Sustainability Team Google Shared File and calendar and shared it with the Team  
Ms. Shaltiel asked Ms. Bourgoin and Mr. Shea to get themselves acquainted with the actions on the SustainableCT.org website and hoped they would be willing to enter actions.
- f. **Workshop updates:** Ms Shaltiel mentioned the Composting Workshop. Mr. Bristol has not got responses from UCONN and will try contacting them again. A discussion ensued about different possibilities of invasive species workshops and the criteria for credits for workshops. David Oakes has some DEEP contacts that he will share. Ms. Bourgoin will reach out to the Sierra Club and the Jonah center and other sources.  
A Repair Café workshop was discussed. Mr. Bristol has a couple of people who are willing to be part of the repairers. A date was set for August 19 and Ms. Shaltiel will apply to the town to see if the date is open at the Grange. Ms. Bourgoin will put a call for repairers in the East Haddam News and will also join the Sustainability Team FB page as an admin.  
Mr. Shea suggested we put recorded workshops online. Mr Oakes agreed we do that. We could subtitle them and have them in Spanish. Matt Shea will take that on, once he becomes a member. Ms. Bourgoin volunteered to lead a workshop about making cleaning products called Green your Clean. Ms. Shaltiel suggested collaborating with First Church to have the workshop in their facilities.
- g. **Communications Survey:** Ms. Shaltiel brought this up with the Fellows and they sent her a link to Waterford's successful campaign and she plans to pursue this in the next few month for a communication action and an equity toolkit action for the silver certification
- h. **Team Reports:**  
Ms. Shaltiel: Reported that we Sustainable CT approved the use the Broadband as a 13.1 action for Climate Leader Certification
- i. **Volunteers and Liaison reports - None**

## 6. New Business

- a. New Workshops and Events – Were discussed in Old Business

7. **Audience of Citizens:** None
8. **Closing Remarks** - Ms. Bourgoin: Mentioned the kayak launch from Salmon River on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 Hosted by Friends of Machimoodus State Park. The EHLT would have a launch at 10 for Father's Day.  
Ms. Bourgoin also announced a cleanup day at Sunrise State Park on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June with the Connecticut Trail Riders Association. Ms. Bourgoin will meet with the Girl Scouts at Machimoodus State Park for cleanup on the same day.
9. **Next meeting** - Ms. Shaltiel announced the next meeting July 11th, 2023 at 7:00 pm via zoom
10. **Adjournment** - David Oakes made a motion to adjourn at 8:22