



**MINUTES**  
**SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**  
**ON-LINE MEETING (Committee)**  
**VIA YOUTUBE LIVE (Public)**

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Tany Bourgoïn at 7:12 due to recording difficulties. Present Tanya Bourgoïn, Mat Shea, Kayle Lopez, Amalia Shaltiel, Jesse Scott, Terri Garrity and Cynthia Deming, EHLT Liaison and Alan Ponanski, Conservation Commission Liaison.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda by Kayle Lopez, Seconded by Amalia Shaltiel, Agenda Approved
3. Acceptance of Minutes: Meeting of April 16, 2024 – Motion by Amalia Shaltiel, Seconded by Kayle Lopez. Minutes accepted. Terri Garrity abstained as she was not present.
4. Chair Report/Correspondence: Ms. Bourgoïn reported -We Regretfully accept Jim Ventres’s resignation.
5. Members and Team Structure: Ms. Shaltiel reported that Jim Ventres has moved from being a member to being an advisor and Liaison to make room for active members. Amber McDonnell is willing to become a member taking the place of Jim Ventres. Ms. Shaltiel made a motion recommending Amber McDonnell before the board of Selectmen to become a member of the Sustainability Team. Seconded by Terri Garrity. In discussion Jesse Scott added his recommendation and said Ms. McDonnell has been very helpful in the energy campaign though she will recuse herself from voting on matters relating to the campaign as team member. Ms. Garrity asked about her areas of interest. Amber is interested in all things sustainable. She will be helping Ms. Shaltiel in data collection and is interested in composting. Motion to recommend Amber as a member of the team passed unanimously. In discussion Alan Ponanski said he would like to stay as Liaison and not join the team at present. Ms. Bourgoïn would like to add members from other interests to the team.
6. Unfinished Business
  - a. Past Initiatives Reports
    - i. Silver Certification Submission – Ms. Shaltiel reported that the East Haddam was awarded Silver Certification, the only Silver certification of this cycle. She mentioned the growing network of towns that are part of Sustainable CT. The next step will be working on Climate Leader designation this August and Gold Certification next year as we are only 100 point away from Gold. Ms. Shaltiel is planning on explaining the actions on social media in the next month and will send thank you cards to the different organizations involved. Ms. Shaltiel also suggested that we celebrate this award. She invited team members to join her in the Sustainable CT Spring Into Summer Celebration where the award will be mentioned on June 11<sup>th</sup>. She also suggested the Team meet at the Cider Barn for a Team celebration and taking the date that was assigned to the Repair Café at the Grange and making it a Town Celebration for families, an afternoon picnic. She volunteered to take that on. Amber McDonnell volunteered to help. A discussion ensued about the nature of the event and how to present it. Ms. Bourgoïn suggested that it would focus around getting to know the Sustainability Team and our projects. Ms. Garrity saw this as an opportunity to expand on our sensory approach to inclusion. She needs assistance with pillows and games. Mr. Shea volunteered to be in charge of games. Ms. Bourgoïn will make a request for the ability to have wine and beer. Mr. Scott suggested we can take money from the energy campaign for

- food. Ms. Shaltiel suggested reaching out to Lauren Pszczolkowski and enlisting her help.
- ii. Compost Workshop – Ms. Lopez reported that although it rained and was very wet it was a successful workshop with 6 or 7 people attending. The compost heap was built in a wheelbarrow under a tent rather than the original outdoor intention. Ms. Lopez is planning to do the next workshop at the beginning of September at Ballek’s again and try and keep it simple for beginners. But she will take the idea of building a pile in a wheelbarrow. Ms. Shaltiel manned the Sustainability tent and had a few conversations on different projects that the team is promoting. There was a discussion about the composting kits and the possibility of using one’s own containers. Matt Shea brought up the question of the possibility of different colored bags at the transfer station. Ms. Shaltiel suggested to keep that for a campaign in the future.

b. Ongoing Initiatives -

- i. Energy Assessments and Heat Pumps Campaign – Mr. Scott reported that the press release was approved, and it will go out to the East Haddam News which will be the kickoff of the campaign. Mr. Scott and Mr. Shea are still working on the Google form. The T-shirt for the campaign was approved by Devan Willemsen from Eversource. Mr. Scott and Ms. Garrity still need to get together to create marketing materials. Mr. Scott is planning some door knocking events. Ms. Shaltiel set up an event at the Senior Center. Ms. Shaltiel contacted the food bank. But because of the need of anonymity this would be a place for marketing material with a sign-up sheet. The campaign will spill into 2025.
- ii. Recycling – Ms. Bourgoin has not had time to implement her plans because of personal reasons. A discussion ensued about the different recycling possibilities of recycling film plastics.
- iii. Repair Café – Ms. Shaltiel reported that she had two responses for experts but that’s not enough so she suggests to move it back to August as it was last year.

c. Planned Initiatives

- i. Sustainability Fair Event, Scavenger Hunt – Ms. Shaltiel suggested adding a scavenger hunt to the celebration.

6. Team Reports –

Terri Garrity is continuing working on her neuro diverse family experience project.

Matt Shea – will like to help with the coming event

Kayle Lopez – is working on finding ways to taking care of composting locally and sustainably. A discussion ensued.

Tanya Bourgoin – asked if we discussed marching in the Memorial Day parade. Ms. Shaltiel said it had been discussed but it wasn’t acted upon

Amalia Shaltiel – Reported on the Dark Sky presentation at the Historical Society at the end of July by the Lyme Land Trust and the Gateway Commission co-sponsored by the Sustainability Team. She will send out more information. Ms. Shaltiel also reported on a meeting with the Green Bank to understand what they do. She shared the information with Bob Casner from the EDC and she will meet with Don Angersola to find out if the town is interested in this connection. She also learned about C-PACE which helps businesses with loans for solar installations. Ms. Bourgoin asked that the information be shared with her. Ms. Shaltiel is also following the question of Tree cutting along roads. Ms. Bourgoin will be meeting with Michele Velez and Alan Ponanski to discuss trees on the corner of Newberry and Wickam on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 AM. Ms. Bourgoin informed the public that there is a listing on the town website of what trees are slated for removal and when they were tagged because there is a window of time where any member of the public can request a hearing to adjudicate whether the removals are necessary. Mr. Ponanski added that 2 issues were at play here – Plan of Conservation and Development that addresses the rural quality of our town and our uniqueness of our tree lined roads. And in the document by the tree warden, it states that they want to eliminate 1000 road side trees in East Haddam. Mr. Ponanski is concerned about whose prevue it is to decide on this elimination of trees where the company that is cutting them is

interested in taking the whole tree for the wood. Ms. Bourgoin has looked at the ordinances and the Conservation Commission is responsible for the natural resources of the town. She would like the backing of the Conservation and Sustainability Team to continue pushing the issues.

7. Volunteers and Liaison reports

Cynthia Deming – Land Trust Annual meeting first week in June. A few star gazing nights and continuing with trail walks

9. New Business – No new business

10. Public Comments – No public comments

11. Announcements – Ms. Bourgoin announced that she would prefer that next meeting be in person at Town Hall. She has already booked the meeting room. There is no possibility of zoom or hybrid meeting from that room. There was no discussion.

12. Next meeting June 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm

13. Adjournment – Motion by Amalia Shaltiel Seconded by Terri Garrity at 8:40