



MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025
7:00PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order – 7:24PM due to quorum issues
 - a. In attendance in person: Amber McDonnell, Jay Fortner, Linda Zemienieski, First Selectman Todd Gelston. Via Zoom: Nora Myers, David Oakes, Alan Ponanski, Jesse Scott
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Mr. Oakes motioned, Mr. Fortner second. Agenda approved.
3. Approval of October meeting minutes
 - a. Mr. Fortner motioned, Mr. Oakes second. Minutes approved.
4. Co-Chair Reports
 - a. Ms. Bourgoin – not present
 - b. Ms. Shaltiel – not present, but Ms. Shaltiel requests feedback from the team on the PowerPoint she created on the Team’s accomplishments this year so she can schedule a presentation for the BoS. **Ms. Zemienieski and Mr. Gelston agreed to add this to the agenda for the second December BoS meeting, 10-15 minutes.**
5. Membership and Admin - Vote on next year’s meeting time. (Amber McDonnell)
 - a. Proposed new meeting day for 2026: 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30PM start
 - i. Mr. Oakes motioned, Ms. Myers second. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Ms. Bourgoin emailed stating she is no longer co-chair of the team but wishes to remain on the team as a general voting member. Ms. Shaltiel invited selectman Tom Sevigny to join. Mr. Gelston intends to appoint Tom Sevigny as the liaison and member of the Sustainability Team at their upcoming BoS meeting and offers the town’s support to our Team.
6. Old Business
 - a. Report on activities since last meeting.
 - i. Gold Certification Ceremony (Everybody)
 1. Great event, well attended. Per Linda we have not yet received the \$12,500 check from SustainableCT with stipulations on how it should be spent.
 - ii. Scare crow contest and Safe Halloween (Amalia Shaltiel) – not discussed
 - iii. Pollinator Pathways (Amalia Shaltiel) – not discussed
 - iv. Town clean-up (Amber McDonnell and Tanya Bourgoin) – not discussed
 - v. Toy swap (Tanya Bourgoin and Amber McDonnell)
 1. Youth & Family Services is hosting a virtual toy swap where residents can submit photos of toys to donate or request toys via a QR code that leads to a google form which is received by a YFS volunteer who will coordinate a meeting for donors and recipients in early December. QR codes are not currently functional, awaiting contact info for YFS volunteer to clear this up. We will share links/QR codes when they are available as we are sponsoring this effort.
 - b. Coming Initiatives
 - i. Harvest House **11/23** (Nora Myers)
 1. This Sunday at St. Stephens Church. Arrive as early as 12PM, food to be hot and ready to serve by 5PM. Expect 30 people. Finalized menu and details to be emailed to those committed to attend.
 - ii. Annual Report to BOS in December (Amalia Shaltiel) – not discussed
 - c. Other Team Member Reports - none

7. New Business

- a. Planning Next year's events (Alan Ponanski) will report on this and something regarding RiverCOG next meeting (hard to hear, poor connection)

8. Volunteers and Liaison reports - none

9. Audience of Citizens - none

10. Announcements - none

11. Next meeting 12/16/25 7:00PM – Ms. Myers suggests this is a lighthearted meeting where we express our gratitude to Ms. Bourgoin for her service to the town on the BoS.

12. Adjournment 8PM

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.