**MINUTES**
**SUSTAINABILITY TEAM MEETING**
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2026**
**7:00PM**
**MEETING ROOM 3**

1. Call to Order 7:06PM
    a. In person: Amalia Shaltiel and Jay Fortner. First Selectman Todd Gelston joined the meeting in person at 7:29 p.m. Via Zoom: Jesse Scott and Honora Myers.
2. Approval of Agenda
    a. Mr. Scott motioned to approve agenda with Dr. Fortner second. All in favor, the motion carries.
3. Approval of June meeting minutes
    a. Mr. Scott motioned, Dr. Fortner second. Dr. Fortner commented that if titles are used then minutes be consistent with titles going forward. No further discussion. All in favor.
4. Membership and Administration:
    a. The Sustainability Team received the resignation of David Oakes with understanding and profound appreciation for David's contributions to the success of the team's efforts in certification, climate resilience, energy points, and loudest cheerleader. He went all in for the Harvest House Sunday meal hosted by the Sustainability Team last November and has served as mentor to the team. The team is grateful and wish David continued success in all his endeavors.
    b. The Sustainability Team has seven members and no alternates at this time. The Team needs three alternates moving forward. The current structure allows for quorum to be met with four members.
    c. Mr. Scott will take the lead on updating the "use of energy in town" due in 2028. Mr. Oakes sent in the last update in August of 2025.
5. Co-Chair Reports and Correspondence:
    a. There is still a roadblock in accessing incoming correspondence due to limited access to the email account. It needs to be addressed and resolved in order for the team to react and respond accordingly.
    b. Ms. Shatiel meets every month with First Selectman Todd Gelston and Mr. Gelston has suggested that the team submit articles on a regular basis to the "East Haddam News". Ms. Myers will draft an article notifying residents of paint recycling at Shagbark and Dr. Fortner and Ms. Shatiel both have articles in the pipeline. The team is grateful for the publication's editor who has given the team priority placement in the weekly newspaper.
    c. Efforts to start recycling in the municipal building are in progress with providing more recycle bins inside offices within the building.
    d. Update on film recycling will be postponed to a later date.
    e. Follow up is needed on the solar powered water tower at the community garden which would then eliminate the need for the fire department to fill up the water tank that sits in the middle of the property.
6. Old Business:
    a. Heritage Market: The team has consistently had a presence at the monthly market and although the July event was cancelled due to the weather, the team is prepared to attend in August. Dr. Fortner will set up the tent and Ms. Myers will join later in the afternoon. Pollinator Pathway signs have been ordered and $12 charged to the account.
    b. Looking forward the team will be at the September 12 Fall Fest with Youth and Family Services.

c. Matching funds ends August 7th for the Super Hero Training. The mural at Two Wrasslin Cats cafe is almost done with the help of various artists.

d. As noted in the meeting agenda, articles are in the pipe line from the team and include Ms. Bourgoin's article on fireflies, Dr. Fortner's article on invasive plants, and Ms. Shatiel's article on nips and eventually an article on demystifying EV chargers and hybrid automobiles.

e. Home Energy Campaign: Mr. Scott will draft a letter to everyone in town for Mr. Gelston's review which will clarify the campaign and the criteria for cost of a home energy assessment based on income. The last letter to town residents was mailed out in July of 2025.

f. Plastic film recycling is gaining interest. In addition, there are videos available that explains what happens to single stream recycling. Linking the video within the transfer station section of the town website would be helpful to residents.

g. Ms. Shatiel successfully connected PACE with the key players to conduct a workshop on EV readiness. There will be a free EV readiness workshop in New Haven on October 16th.

h. Climate Prize Ideas:

1. Path from middle school to center of Moodus.
2. EV charger at the Grange.
3. Well water tower powered by solar energy.

7. New Business.

a. Source to Sea Cleanup. Ms. Bourgoin is the point of contact and can provide more information if you email her. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting however looks forward to updating the team on this campaign.

b. Composting in the school system. Ms. Shatiel will follow up with the Superintendent, Dr. Teresa DiPetro.

c. Organizing meeting of Organization Directors. Combined calendar of events is a step closer to coordinating with town organizations.

d. Fall Repair Cafe. Planning for November and possible venue may be the senior center and hosted during the week vs a weekend date.

8. Member Reports. Dr. Fortner will send draft article to Ms. Shatiel on invasive plants. No additional reports from members at this time.

9. Volunteers and Liaison reports - nothing at this time.

10. Audience of Citizens - Access to incoming emails is limited and hinders prompt responses to citizen inquiries or requests.

11. Announcements - nothing at this time.

10. Next meeting Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM

11. Dr. Fortner motioned to adjourn with a second from Mr. Scott. Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

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.