MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2026
7:00 PM
MEETING ROOM 3

1. Call to Order : 7:10- Present in person – Amalia Shaltiel and Jay Fortner. Present on Zoom – Tanya Bourgoin, Jesse Scott and joined by Alan Ponanski
2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Jay Fortner, Seconded by Amalia Shaltiel. Motion passed
3. Approval of May meeting minutes – Motion by Tanya Bourgoin, Seconded by Jay Fortner. Discussion of a few corrections. Corrected Minutes were approved with amendments.
4. Membership and Admin – Alternate positions – Not discussed
5. Co-Chair Reports and Correspondence – Ms. Bourgoin reported about email from Rhea at New England Smart Energy about their Energy Assessment Program, though she informed them of the existing relationship with Lantern Energy. Ms. Shaltiel updated on the mural project at Two Wrasslin Cats as the second community matching grant funding project we have been involved in and mentioned working with Nathaniel Hill, Fellow from Sustainable CT on recertification preparations for 2028. Ms. Shaltiel also discussed writing a letter of recommendation for PACE regarding a Charging Smart grant and potential collaboration between the Agriculture and Economic Development Commissions to support farmers. A discussion ensued about the challenges small farmers face when trying to participate in a farmer's markets It was agreed to attend a meeting with the agriculture commission to better understand the goals and explore collaboration opportunities.
6. Guest – Tyler Semrinov from Super Hero Training Corp – As Mr. Semrinov could not attend, Ms. Bourgoin read a text from him. Super Hero training Corps organization is initiating a SustainableCT matching Grant fundraiser. Ms. Shaltiel stated that this will be our third grant support. Ms. Bourgoin explained that she is also involved as part of Friends of Machimoodus Sunrise State Parks. The Team agreed to help in the fundraising.
7. Old Business:
    a. Heritage Markets – Mr. Fortner reported on June Heritage Market which was very successful. The Eversource Electric Bus display was situated in the shade so did not work properly because it is powered by solar.
    b. Monthly Theme – The monthly Theme for July is Thriving Local Economies and for August Local Agriculture Promotion. This is covered by Heritage Market and planned connection with the agriculture commission.
    c. Articles for East Haddam News – A discussion of possible articles included Oak Trees, Fireflies, Hazardous Waste, Demystifying EVs and Invasives. Ms. Bourgoin will write about Fireflies. Mr. Fortner will write about Invasives. Ms. Shaltiel will write about Nips and demystifying EV's
    d. Report on Home Energy Campaign – Not discussed
    e. Plastic Film Recycling timeline –Ms. Bourgoin reported on the plastic film recycling program changes, explaining that the previous bench reward system was replaced with quarterly drawings for organizations recycling over 250 pounds. The team discussed setting up drop-off locations at various places including libraries, Shagbark, and potentially Hometown Market or Nutmeg, with Ms. Shaltiel agreeing to find volunteers to collect the plastic film weekly and report the weights to Trex. The program needs containers with signage, a scale (which Shagbark has).

f. Charging Smart program and follow-up on NiCER – Ms. Shaltiel reported on the steps taken towards Bronze certification with Charging Smart. A conversation with Eversource. Putting the requirements for an EV Charger on the Town Website (The only requirement is an Electric permit) and Changes to zoning.
g. Climate Prize Money Ideas – Ms. Shaltiel reported on a delay to the Middle School plan to create a walking path to Moodus Center because of problems in transferring a small part of the land to the town because of a lien on the land in question.

8. New Business: New initiatives
    a. 250 Town Celebration – Mr. Ponanski reported on the celebration preparations for the 11th of July. The Team decided to attend personally instead of getting involved as an organization
    b. Composting in Schools – Not discussed
    c. Organizing meeting of Organization Directors. – Not discussed
    d. Fall Repair Cafe – Planned for the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of October.
9. Members Reports -none
10. Volunteers and Liaison reports -none
10. Audience of Citizens - none
11. Announcements - Ms Bourgoin mentioned that Connecticut passed a portable solar panel bill allowing installation on balconies and decks, not just roofs.
12. Next meeting Thurs 8.6.2026 7:00 PM
13. Adjournment with loss of quorum,