

Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024

Old Town Hall, Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

Attendance: Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, John Nork, Mary Nork, Neal Perron, Teresa Resnick, Gail Reynolds, Linda Talbott

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Joanne Nesti at 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Was said by all.

Motion to Accept the Agenda: Was made by Gail Reynolds and Seconded by Sarah Neal and passed.

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023: Was made by Gail Reynolds and seconded by Sarah Neal and passed.

Old Business:

- **Food Scrap:** Linda Talbott reported the following: November 2023 weight: 6,125 lb; December 2023 weight: 4,275Lb; January 2024 weight: 4,725lb which brings total weight of food scraps removed from MSW since the program began at 104,330 lbs or 52.2 Tons. 12/8/2021-11/30/2022: 42,280lbs; 12/7/2022-11/30/2023:53,050lbs. This past year food scrap removal increased by 10,770lbs. The average number of bins filled over the last 10 weeks has been 10. There are about 21-23 starter kits left in the Town Office Building. Linda thanked Joanne Nesti and Helen Hastings for picking up the Senior Center Food Scraps while she was away.
- **Trex Plastic:** Joanne Nesti read Kristin Battistoni's report: as of 2/19/2024, we have collected 562 lbs. We need to collect 1000lbs by November 30, 2024, so we are on our way. Thank you to everyone who is volunteering to collect the plastic, bag it, weigh it, photograph the full bags and bring them to Stop and Shop. There is now a new plastic shed set up behind the Town Office Building (TOB), thanks to a few HKHS students. If you don't have a transfer station pass, or can't make it to the TS, you can drop your plastic off there. Joanne thanked Neil Perron for volunteering to take the plastic from the TOB shed to Stop and Shop when he takes the Senior Van to appointments in Middletown. This is very much appreciated, and the Town fully supports his doing this. Joanne is making up a tentative schedule through June 30 for the volunteers who collect the plastic from the Transfer station bin. Joanne thanked Kristin Battistoni, Dorothy and Mike Gillespie, Sarah Neal, Mary and John Nork, and Linda Talbott for volunteering to do this collection.
- **Textile Program:** Teresa Resnick reported the following for the Baystate Textiles for year 2023:

Recycle Center (Transfer Station): 23,280lbs with rebate of \$1360.90

Social Services : 33,870 lbs with rebate of \$1992.10

HKHS (started in May) : 2770 lbs with rebate of \$166.20

HKMS(started in May) : 2350 lbs with rebate of \$141
Total for this past year: : 62,270 lbs with rebate of \$3660.20

Teresa has a quote from the Middletown sign making company of \$35 for a 12 in x 18 in magnetic sign listing what can go into the Textile Bins and she suggests ordering 4 of them to put on the 4 bins. Linda Talbott made a motion to order these 4 signs as long as Treasurer Kristin Battistoni approves. Teresa Resnick seconded it and it passed.

Sarah Neal stated at the Social Services(SS) bin there is a handmade sign stating to put an X on the donated bag of textiles if it can't be used for the SS Clothing Closet. Teresa will discuss that with SS personnel as Bay State owns the bin and it shouldn't be used to collect clothes for Social Services. She noted 2024 is off to a great start as the textile collections for January/February for the Transfer Station: 3,850 lbs; SS: 10,040 lbs; HKHS: 520 lbs; HKMS: 1410 lbs.

- **Treasurer's report:** Joanne Nesti read Kristin Battistoni's report: We have about \$1000 left in the line item from the sales of the compost bags and starter kits. We used to have two accounts, one for the food scrap program and one from the town as our budget, but now it will just be one line-item budget. Kristin intends to purchase the large plastic bags for the Trex project and several boxes of the composting bags before the end of the year. She also may need funds to ship tall brands that need to go back to Terra Cycle. Kristin is very close with securing a contract with Pro-Shred for a May 4 shredding date to be held at HES.
- **Projects/items for spending the next year's budget:** Linda Talbott has gotten a quote from ABCO printing for a weather proofed sandwich board which will have printed on it What's in and What's out Guide to Recycling just like what was on the flyer we mailed out, to be placed at the transfer station so people and the workers have a quick visual reference there. The committee consensus was that was too much to spend. Linda will look into a magnetic sign and will get a quote on that before the March meeting. Joanne Nesti said she gave the workers some copies of the flyers as they sometimes don't seem to know what can and cannot go into single stream. Discussion was held as to where the magnetic sign would be placed, and it was suggested that it be put on the bin where the recycling goes into. Linda will check with Chris Corsa to see if that bin is rolled out periodically to disperse the recycling, in which case, another spot would have to be found.
- **WeCareDenali Compost:** Linda Talbott spoke to Sam King at Blue Earth Compost regarding if it would be possible to have a truck load of bagged WeCareDenali Compost brought to Haddam. WeCare Compost is based in NY State and has facilities in Farmington and Ellington CT. Their compost is approved by Baystate organic certifiers for use on Certified organic Farms. Blue Earth can deliver 50 lb bags (\$15/bag) and or \$25 lb bags (\$8/bag) if the load was \$300 minimum. People who are interested would deal directly with Sam King, place their order and pay with a credit card and once he gets to the \$300 mark, he would give us the date of delivery. The committee would not have to do anything except find a

place (? HES) for the delivery. Discussion followed. Gail Reynolds stated when she ran the Haddam Farmer's Market, they had compost from Tiffany Farms, and no one bought it. Town and Country Nursery, Ballek's Garden Center, Home Depot all sell compost. Mary Nork said the Feed stores also do. Gail discussed that compost is a good soil amendment and helps to hold water, provides nutrients depending on the type of soil a person has. She suggested this was something the Haddam Garden Club should do. Linda had emailed the Garden Club but hadn't received a reply as of this meeting. The idea was tabled but will probably not go forward per consensus. Teresa wants to know if Kristin can start selling the Tee shirts at the TOB. Linda will ask her, otherwise we will have them at the Farmer's Market.

- **Meet Your Greens with Kim O'Rourke (Feb 15):** Joanne read Kristin Battistoni's report: Kristin attended this and said the presentation was pretty much the same one she gave when she came to our committee meeting. She reported that Kim talked about trash equity which will become a significant factor in the future. They have different speakers every month and Kristin will pass on information when she receives it.

Gail Reynolds discussed the Rockfall Foundation also has speakers. Anne Bingham, MD who lives in Haddam, spoke in December and Gail has also been a speaker for them. Rockfall also gives grants to Towns. Gail also reported that River COG (Council of Governments) has a grant to look at solid waste solutions for all of Middlesex County, plus Lyme and Old Lyme. On a humorous note, Gail stated Southern Vermont collects urine in a PeeCycle program that separates it from wastewater and turns it into fertilizer!

- **Book recycling:** Sarah Neal reported the Brainerd Library asked her if books can go into single stream recycling. Linda Talbott emailed Kim O'Rourke who is on the board of Recycle CT and the answer is yes. Even hard cover books can go into single stream without removing the hard covers. Technology books that are way out of date are good examples of books that can be recycled.
- **The next meeting is March 26, 2024.**
- Motion to adjourn was made by Linda Talbott, seconded by Mary Nork. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.
- Respectfully submitted, Linda Talbott, Secretary