**Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday March 26, 2024; 6:30 pm**

**Old Town Hall; 21 Field Park Drive**

**Zoom only meeting.**

**Attendance:** Kristin Battistoni, Helen Hastings, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Mary Nork, Neil Perron,

Teresa Resnick, Linda Talbott

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

**Motion to Accept Agenda:** Motion was made by Sarah Neal and seconded by Kristin Battistoni and was passed unanimously.

**Motion to Accept the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024:** Motion was made by Helen Hastings and seconded by Kristin Battistoni and was passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

* **Food Scrap:**  Linda Talbott reported that February food scrap collection was 5,825 lbs which brings overall poundage taken out of the MSW to 110,155 lbs or 55 tons since December of 2021.
* **Trex Plastic:**  Kristin Battistoni reported that the program has been very successful, and we only have to collect 175 more pounds to meet the $1000 lb minimum to get another bench. Kristin and Joanne Nesti thanked Neal Perron for collecting the soft plastic from the new shed located behind the Town Office building once a week when he brings the Senior bus to Middletown, and he drops it off at Stop and Shop. He brought 65lbs this past week! Joanne stated Kristin has the large plastic bags that volunteers which include Dorothy/Mike Gillespie, Sarah Neal, John and Mary Nork, Joanne Nesti and Linda Talbott, need to collect the plastic from the bin located at the transfer station. Joanne has sent out the newest schedule for collection because starting in April, Kristin Battistoni will collect on all Wednesdays and the other volunteers will do Saturdays and Sundays. Barb Galloway has also volunteered to help, and Joanne will ask her as the need arises for a backup.
* **Textiles:** Teresa Resnick stated that in the month of February 2024 5,370 lbs were collected at all 4 Baystate textile bins in town and in the month of January 10,450 lbs were collected. The rebate is around $949.20. She was disappointed in the sticker signage that Baystate put on the bins which just stated: clothing, linens and shoes. They did add Reuse, Recycle which was good. The quote she got for a metallic sign listing all the items increased to $85/per sign and 4 would be needed. Linda Talbott suggested she do a trial of printing out all the items from the Baystate website and go to Staples and get it laminated and use magnets to affix it to one of the bins to see if that would work as an alternative.

**New Business:**

* **Treasurer’s report:** Kristin Battistoni stated since the Finance people were out of the office, she couldn’t give a fully accurate report, however, states we have at least $1000 left in this year’s budget funds. There are still about 23 starter kits left and no tee shirts have been sold out of her office, but hopefully at the Farmer’s market that will change. Kristin plans to order more BioBags as those are still selling well and will resupply the rolls of large plastic bags for the soft plastic program as needed.
* **Projects for spending next year’s budget:** Linda Talbott reported that the transfer station has an extra white sandwich board that we can have, and they will affix a 24 x 36-inch corrugated plastic sign to it for us. The most recent quote she got from ABCO printing was $35 to make the sign which will have printed on it What’s In and What’s Out for single stream recycling based on the Recycle Ct flyer we sent out. After some discussion, Kristin Battistoni made a motion to go ahead with the printing of this sign at a cost of $35(plus tax) and Helen Hastings seconded it. It passed. Teresa Resnick questioned if white plastic number 5 food take out containers are recyclable. It was suggested she go to RecycleCt and type that in to see if it is or isn’t. She can contact Linda Talbott if she can’t find the answer there and Linda will ask Kim O’Rourke.
* **Sustainable CT progress:** Linda Talbott reported that she and Helen Hastings met with Sustainable Ct Program Assistant Dorothy Piszczek on March 25. We went through all 12-13 action plans, and she signed off as completed on all but 2 of them. The Equity action plan might be helped when the Town Planner, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and maybe Bob McGarry meet on April 2 with Haddam Seniors at the Senior Center to discuss the plans for a new Senior Center and to discuss the architectural findings for what can go into the former HES building along with the senior affordable housing apartments. Linda is still working with the Garden Club on their community outreach information regarding the Pollinator Garden at the Brainerd Library. Dorothy is not a reviewer, but she thinks we may have 300-340 points (we need 200 to get bronze certification). However, all the mandatory 12 action plans need to be completed and accepted. We plan to submit the application by April 10 for the review committee to comment on. If necessary, we can also submit it again in August if they don’t approve it because there are some incomplete areas.
* **Volunteers for the Farmer’s Market:** Linda has a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man the committee booth and she will send out the dates that are open for the Farmer’s market. It isn’t necessary that we are there every week. The market is on Saturdays from 9 to noon with set up 8:15-8:30 am. Linda has the shade canopy, the tables and all the info and will set up with you and take down as long as she won’t be away. Joanne Nesti wants Linda to email those dates as we are meeting tonight by zoom only.
* **Shred It event:** Kirstin Battistoni reported that the contract has been signed with a new company: ProShred. It will be held at the HES parking lot on Saturday May 4 from 9 am to noon. Committee volunteers are needed to man this event. A $5 donation per box is requested and the money raised goes to Social Services. Kristin has written an article for HKNow and the Haddam Killingworth Newspaper announcing this event. Discussion was held regarding putting an ad also in the newspaper. Linda Talbott made a motion to do an ad not to exceed $100 and it was seconded by Sarah Neal and passed.
* **Congratulations to Sarah Neal:** Joanne Nesti announced the committee is congratulating committee member Sarah Neal who is being inducted into the HK Hall of Fame at a dinner at the Riverhouse on May 9. Tickets need to be purchased for this event as sales end May 1. Linda Talbott read the write up describing Sarah’s many years of volunteer service to the Haddam community through the Haddam Historical Society as education coordinator, teaching Sunday school at the Valley Bible Church and also serving on the Haddam Sustainability Committee. A proud moment for Sarah and her family! Applause to you Sarah!

**Motion to Adjourn:** Kristin Battistoni made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Helen Hastings and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**The next meeting is April 23, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Old Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, Linda Talbott, Secretary.