**Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

**March 28, 2023, Old Town Hall**

**Attendance:** Kristin Battistoni, Helen Hastings, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Mary Nork, Teresa Resnick, Linda Talbott

**Call to Order:** Joanne Nesti called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** was said by all

**Motion to amend the agenda:** Motion to amend the agenda , to move up the Treasurer’s report to be first, was made by Mary Nork and seconded by Sarah Neal and was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kristin Battistoni reported that we have 2 separate accounts:

* 1): account from the donations from townspeople for starter kits and extra rolls Biobags: since 7/1/23 collected $1,057, but $131.70 spent to buy 2 cases Biobags ( 30 rolls left): leaves$925.30; any money left in this account will stay in this account at end of fiscal year
* 2): Town account: $1500: Shred Event, May 13 will cost $790, so $710 left. Money not spent from this account goes back into the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year

Discussion was held re: how to advertise the Shred It event. It was noted River Cog has a published brochure, but our event is a fundraiser with the $ collected going to Social Services, so we cannot advertise in their brochure. It was suggested an ad in the Haddam Killingworth paper might be advisable and Kristin will follow up on that. Kristin has flyers to put up around town and volunteers are needed for that. She may investigate another shredding company as this one has erroneously billed Haddam and Haddam Finance is still in negotiations to correct that with them.

Linda Talbott quoted ABCO can print 100 business card size magnets with Recycle CT app on it for $170, but no committee agreement was reached on this. Kristin suggested another postcard mailing with updated info on how the food scrap program is doing and also Teresa Resnick wants textile information on it as well. Linda will ask ABCO for a quote.

**Old Business:**

* **Food Scrap:** Linda Talbott reported so far 53,555lbs or 26.77 Ton of food scraps have been removed since program started 12/8/21. Since January we have had 5 weeks of 8 bins filled and 1 week of 9 bins. We go to a 2 yd. dumpster if 12 bins filled consistently. She outlined the proposed costs of buying 50 more starter kits and either 2 cases, 3 cases or 4 cases of extra Biobags. In the past, we have purchased the kits from Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority in Brookfield CT, but the CEO there is hedging on allowing us to buy 50 more. We may need to buy the black vented counter top bins and Biobags direct from Biobag and may have to buy the green transport bins from a vendor in Canada if HRRA does not come through. HRRA says there may be a 10% cost increase from the prices quoted in February. Mary Nork made a motion that we buy 50 starter kits (50 6 gallon bins, 50 countertop bins) and 3 cases of the 2 gallon Biobags and keep the cost at or below $900. Sarah Neal seconded it and it passed unanimously. Teresa Resnick said she will be attending several Blue Earth Compost events in the state this spring.
* Helen Hastings suggested a Welcome Basket with town information like the Food scrap and Textile programs be given to people who move into town and the committee in general thought that was a great idea.
* Mary Nork requested Teresa Resnick and Linda Talbott do a presentation to Club 60 in September to talk about the Textile and Food Scrap recycling programs. They meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at the Community Center. They agreed to do so.
* **Approval of January minutes:** Sarah Neal made a motion to approve those minutes, Mary Nork seconded and it passed unanimously.
* **Trex Plastic:** Kristin stated we are about 100 lbs. shy of getting another bench. Mary Nork suggested Higganum Cove might be a great place to put a bench. Kristin will check with Chris Corsa to see where he is putting the benches
* Sarah Neal is saving glass containers if we ever do get a separate glass recycling bin
* Kristin read a thank you note sent by Deb Karpf, the Garden Club President thanking us for moving our Shred It event from HES to the Community Center as they hold their Spring Plant sale May 13 there. We charge $5/box and don’t turn anyone away.
* Teresa Resnick suggested establishing a weekly Sustainability Committee column in the paper. Joanne Nesti said space in the newspaper may be an issue; however HKNow will post any articles right away. Teresa has written two articles for both publications on the Textile program.
* **Ballfield Recycling:** Joanne Nesti reported HK Little League sends out an email to kids and parents and may include a paragraph encouraging both groups to recycle properly. She will try to attend the Park and Rec April meeting to see if signage can be put up to encourage people to recycle properly. Teresa suggested multiuse water bottles instead of single use plastic water bottles be encouraged. Joanne may see if Boy Scouts want to collect the single use cans and bottles from the ballfields to get the money back from them
* **Textile recycling:** Teresa has worked with the RRSD 17 Superintendent and Operations Director, John Mercier, and they have signed a contract with Baystate Textiles to place one bin April 9 at the middle school soccer field parking area and a second one near Park and Rec offices on high school property. Roslyn Reeps did a presentation to Killingworth officials and they are putting a textile bin in Killingworth, too. Teresa wants to promote it to the schools. Helen Hastings suggested she contact Andree Pias, the teacher who runs the HKIS Green Team.

**New Business:**

* **Composting brochure:** Linda reported Emily Milcent’s students did some digital How to Compost brochures for an assignment. Some of them had technical info on the nitrogen cycle so now they are working on a brochure that would be more easily understood by the community. That won’t be ready until May, but if we approve it, we can post it on our committee website.
* **Farmer’s Market/Agricultural fair:** we have a table at the Farmer’s Market and volunteers are needed to man it. This year, it has been moved to Saturdays from 9 am to noon at HES. Linda has all the handouts, etc. June 3 is Opening Day, but it is also the Brainerd Library Agricultural Fair which Joanne Nesti is going to do again this year. Dates needed for market: June 10,17,24; July 1,8,15,22,29; Aug 5,12,19; Sept9,15.23,30; Oct 7,14. Contact Linda Talbott at jtalbott45@gmail.com if you are interested. Linda will send a separate email out for signing up.
* **Pollinator Garden/Bees:** Helen Hastings did a presentation to Andree Pias’ Green Team which consists of 4th and 5th graders and talked about honeybees, their life cycle and their importance as pollinators. The Green Team had the idea to talk about things they learned about bees, honey and pollinator gardens which they can broadcast to the HKIS school population in their Morning Minute broadcasts. Helen also gave them tips on what native plants to put in the pollinator garden at the HKIS. Teresa Resnick may also want to meet with the Green Team kids and talk to them about the Textile Program. Helen hopes to go back again and talk to the school climate committee. She also mentioned the Killingworth Garden club has an article on H-KNow: What is a Pollinator? which we should all read.
* **Sustainable CT:** Linda passed out the newest Sustainable CT brochure which briefly lists all the action categories and explained how to earn bronze certification. Teresa has talked to Town Planner, Bill Warner, who indicates it is too time consuming and doesn’t really help with getting grants as he has had no problem with obtaining grants. One copy of the very detailed action plan was passed around. Linda suggested a subcommittee consisting of many town departments would be needed to get this done, however, it seems like there isn’t enough interest at this time.
* **Earth Day Cleanup:** This DEEP sponsored event will take place on April 22 and May 13 at Haddam Meadows, 9 to noon. You need to register by emailing cherylczuba@comcast.net.
* Teresa had a flyer from Middletown where they are selling the Earth Machine Compost Bin and Rain Barrel sale. You can order yours at Connecticut.compostersale.com/rivercog or call Janice:860-581-8554 or Kim: 860-638-4855
* Next meeting is Tuesday April 25,2023, 6:30 pm Old Town Hall
* Motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Neal and seconded by Mary Nork.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Talbott, Secretary