

Special Meeting, Haddam Sustainability Committee

December 7, 2022 Old Town Hall 6:30pm

Attendance: Kristin Battistoni, Helen Hastings, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Mary Nork, Andree Pias, Gail Reynolds, Linda Talbott

Joanne Nesti called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Gail Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Sarah Neal, to accept the agenda and passed unanimously.

Mary Nork made a motion, seconded by Sarah Neal, to accept the minutes of the October meeting and this also passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **Food Scrap:** Linda Talbott reported that 41,755lbs or 20.87 Ton of food scraps have been removed from the MSW this year. Average is 7/8 bins although we have filled 9/10 bins on occasion. Linda, Emily Milcent (HKHS Science teacher) and Heather Rigatti (STEM Curriculum Coordinator) did a food scrap compost presentation to Superintendent of Schools Jeff Wihbey, Director of Operations John Mercier, Food Service Director Sharon Shettleworth, Alan Sansalone of custodial services on November 17. Sam King from Blue Earth Compost was also present. Discussion followed, but no decision was made to move forward with a pilot program at Burr and maybe Killingworth Elementary Schools. Joanne Nesti was present and she will email the superintendent periodically to keep this as an active program under their consideration.
- Haddam Public works is in the process of renewing the contract with Blue Earth for next year with the following increases in costs: \$30/wk. to come here is now increased to \$35; bin use was \$5 each, now \$6 each; cleaning fee/bin remains \$1 each. There is also a 5% diesel fee paid which is written in the contract to increase if the price of diesel increases
- **Trex Plastic recycling:** Kristin Battistoni reported that 110lbs have been collected so far. The Town has received 2 Trex benches, but no decision has been made as to where they may be placed. She plans to have a commemorative plaque made to honor Anna Riebold. The decision as to where to place them will be up to Public works. Higganum Cove may be one possibility.
- **Ball Field Recycling:** Joanne Nesti will continue to work with park and Rec and Pete's regarding appropriate bin covers to help as well as recruiting maybe High school students to do some hours standing by the trash and recycle bins at the ball fields to help educate people as to appropriate bin use.

New Business:

- **Glass recycling bin:** Linda Talbott reported that Middletown has purchased a 20cy roll off glass recycling container from WasteQuip. She has contacted the rep for our area who gave her a ballpark figure of \$8700 without tax.

- The freight cost to deliver the bin last May from the factory in New Lebanon, NY to Middletown was about \$600. The bin is 22 ft long and 93 inches wide. Linda emailed this information to Bob McGarry and Chris Corsa, but hadn't heard anything back.
- Kristin Battistoni reported that the Haddam Finance Director has requested we put in a monetary amount for this as a potential project in the budget. She noted the Town of Haddam has earned \$15,000 from the sale of the alcohol nips (5 cent charge/nip to the consumer when purchased gets sent to the state and then comes back to towns). That money is supposed to be used for projects like the glass recycle bin, so Kristin requested \$14,000 be put in.
- Middletown empties it 4x/yr. by putting it on a roll off truck and transporting it to Strategic Materials in South Windsor, so a driver may need to be hired to do that from Haddam or perhaps something might be able to be worked out with Middletown.
- Joanne Nesti stated a community wide educational component would be needed for compliance if this project goes forward.
- New member nomination: Gail Reynolds made a motion which was seconded by Linda Talbott to nominate Helen Hastings as a new member of our committee. This passed unanimously. Helen has been assisting Linda with the collection of food scraps from the Senior Center lunches.
- Andree Pias, HKIS Green Club & HKIS teacher: Ms. Pias has a group of about 11 HKIS students who meet 1x/month to work on school recycling issues. The group has made 3D signs about recycling in the building blue recycle bins, has written scripts to educate the students in morning meetings about recycling. They want to start a pollinator garden. Gail Reynolds has some seeds of native plants she can give them for that. Helen Hastings does bee keeping and may talk to Andree about that. Andree may have her students write letters to the school superintendent to encourage initiating a food scrap program in the schools. Discussion was held regarding what recycling is done in the schools. Roslyn Reeps is a parent liaison Andree uses for the Green Club and she will connect Joanne and Linda to Roslyn. Sarah Neal asked about the prevalence of single use water bottles in the HKIS. Andree reported that it is minimal. There is a refillable water bottle station in the cafeteria.
- Treasurer's report: We have taken in \$677 since July 1 on the starter kits and biobags. We have spent \$131.70 on the purchase of 2 boxes of Biobags (48 rolls of 25 bags per roll). That leaves a balance of \$545.30. We can use that to maybe buy more starter kits and bags. This money goes into the general fund but is earmarked for our committee. In addition, our budget is \$1500 and of that \$750 is for the cost of the Shred It event. Kristin will look into doing Shred It sometime in May 2023.
- Linda Talbott reminded everyone they need to do the Sexual Harassment video and send your certificate of completion to Joann Ricciardelli at selectasst@haddam.org.
- Brief discussion was held re: changing the meeting night from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. Gail Reynolds made a motion to change the meeting from the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 pm to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. It was seconded by Kristin Battistoni and passed unanimously.
- Brief discussion re: could winter meetings be hybrid or done remotely? Joanne Nesti will look into the ability to maybe doing that.
- The next meeting will be January 24, 2023 at 6:30 pm
- Sarah Neal made a motion to adjourn, with second by Gail Reynolds and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Talbott