

Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023 6:30pm, Old Town Hall

Attendance: Kristin Battistoni, Helen Hastings, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Mary Nork, Roslyn Reeps. Teresa Resnick, Gail Reynolds, Linda Talbott

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all

Agenda: The agenda was amended to add Roslyn Reeps to the agenda and was then approved.

Approval of December meeting minutes: Motion was made by Gail Reynolds and seconded by Sarah Neal and passed

New Business:

- Roslyn Reeps is a representative from Sustainable Killingworth and is on the Killingworth Conservation Commission. She met previously with Joanne Nesti, HK Science teacher Emily Milcent and Linda Talbott to learn about what we were proposing to the RSD 17 school district re: food scrap recycling. She has had experience in Washington State with elementary school food scrap recycling, has worked at CT DEEP, and is looking to collaborate with our committee to help get some broader recycling added to the Killingworth transfer station which is free to Killingworth residents. She has investigated Bay State textiles to see if a bin could be brought to Killingworth, but has met with some resistance on this idea from the town. Teresa Resnick outlined what can be recycled at Bay State and is willing to work with Roslyn in this area.
- Kristin suggested it might be helpful for town residents to know what % of their taxes goes to the transfer station
- Roslyn outlined some of the legislative priorities CT is looking to pass into law such as the Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging recycling. Her child is a member of the HKIS Green Team and Leap programs which are investigating composting. Leap traveled to Common Ground an environmental magnet school in New Haven to see their composting program and their farm with animals
- The first goal cited by them is to reduce food waste; encourage things like share baskets; Linda Talbott said that the idea of share tables was part of the presentation to the RSD 17, but the district would have to decide if post Covid they would allow that. The federally and state subsidized lunch programs have requirements that include 3 healthy items, but often kids don't eat them and they are put in the trash
- Roslyn also has a small Vitamix small home composter which she likes using

Old Business:

- **Food Scrap:** Linda Talbott reported that a second internal meeting was held in early January with the school Superintendent, the STEM Curriculum Coordinator, the Director of Operations

and a Custodial person. A budget and logistics paper was prepared by Linda and Heather Rigatti, the STEM Coordinator. The school is short staffed in the cafeteria worker and custodial departments right now and they cannot go ahead with this project at this time, however, the Superintendent agreed to put money in the budget for next fiscal year. If they are fully staffed in those areas July 1, 2023 then it is possible it may be able to move forward.

December food scrap weight was 4300lbs which brings the total removed since December 8, 2021 to 46,055 lbs. or 23 Ton. Linda thanked Joanne Nesti, Helen Hastings, and Lauren and Tim Crowley for handling the Senior Center food scrap pick up while she is away.

- **Trex Plastic:** Kristin Battistoni reported 215 lbs. have been brought to Stop and Shop and about another 100 lbs. are in the shed behind the town office Building. There is still someone who is bringing their recyclables and putting them in the shed!
- **Ballfield recycling:** Joanne Nesti reported vandalism occurred on the Jail Hill fields and Park and Rec is focused on how to repair that. They may need to spend money on security cameras if they aren't already there. The poor recycling continues to be a problem at both fields. Kristin suggested a bottle drive so kids could earn some money perhaps with the cans and bottles. Pete's, the hauler is receptive, but volunteers are needed to stand by the bins to monitor them. Girl and Boy Scouts are not interested in doing that. Roslyn suggested a garbage dumpster and a recycle bin might work.
- **Textile Recycling:** Teresa Resnick has the OK from the Superintendent to place a BayState Textiles bin at the High School and one at the Middle school. She still needs to hear from the Director of Operations as to where to place them. Haddam earns \$100/ton for these textiles, so the schools could earn money also. She explained that stuffed animals, ripped clothes, items of all kinds, things that would not be given to Goodwill can be recycled with BayState. Continued education to the community is important and Teresa plans to write an article to put in the online HK-Now and the Haddam Killingworth Newspaper. Linda suggested a handout for the Farmer's Market booth which could be printed at the Town Hall.

New Business:

- **Glass recycling:** Linda reported that Kristin said the Finance director asked for an estimate of funds for a glass recycling bin because the money the town earns from the nips sales could go toward something like the glass recycling bin. Linda had received a quote from the company that Middletown used for their bin and passed that on to Chris Corsa and Bob McGarry, however, she never heard back from either of them. She did go and talk to Chris at Public Works but he said he has no extra space at the TS for something like that and he wouldn't want to lose one of his workers or have to hire someone to bring the container up to Strategic Materials in South Windsor to empty it periodically. He indicated the TS is losing money as it is especially since MIRA closed and we are now paying \$111/ton MSW to be brought to the Preston Trash to energy plant. He expects that fee to increase to \$124/T by the end of this year.

- **Treasurer's Report:** Kristin Battistoni: The Shred It contract has been signed and the event will be at HES on May 13, 9am-12. There are about 8 starter kits left in the Town Office Building and 2 boxes of the compostable bags. The bags are selling at a slower rate than before perhaps because people are using the bins or other container without the bag which is fine to do. \$812 has been collected on the sale of the kits since July 1. \$131 was used to buy the 2 boxes of biobags. We have \$680 left if we want to buy more starter kits/bags. If another town was going to buy starter kits, perhaps we could buy half an order like we did previously.
Linda suggested we consider a magnet that DEEP has the template for. There is a small magnet the size of a business card that says Recycle CT which is a free app that the state has where you ask if you can recycle something and it tells you yes or no it is trash. She also stated that if you go to Haddam.org and click on the transfer station, there is a lot of recycling information there. The TS site also has another site you can click on that does the same thing as Recycle CT. Linda can get a quote from ABCO for either a magnet that says Recycle CT or one that maybe links to the transfer station site. These could be handed out to people at the Farmer's Market or placed around town. Teresa suggested info on the transfer station be given when people buy passes.
- **Other recycling education:** Helen Hastings suggested a small section in the newspaper for recycling issues or a place where people could submit questions. Joanne Nesti is one of the editors and mentioned that Nutmeg Pharmacy takes out an ad that also includes some medical information. Terry Twigg from the Garden Club writes a monthly article. The online HK-Now posts anyone's article right away. The paper version is a little slower due to space issues. Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Kristin Battistoni and Linda Talbott have all submitted articles which were published in both forums. Joanne suggested a 250 word article is perfect. Teresa will do one on textiles. The way to submit is hk-noweditors@outlook.com
- **Sustainable CT certification:** Gail Reynolds noted East Lyme has received accreditation from Sustainable CT which covers a broader focus beyond recycling. Linda Talbott said Haddam has registered with Sustainable CT back when Liz Milardo was First Selectwoman. There is a long list of things on Sustainable CT site for certification many of which Haddam has already done but there needs to be a subcommittee consisting of other town officials, committee chairs so they can upload all the required information to that site. There are Sustainable CT interns which Kristin has had in the summers that might be able to help. Joanne will check with Kristin on her experience with the interns

Motion to adjourn: Gail Reynolds made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Helen Hastings and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday February 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Talbott, Secretary