

## **Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 23, 2022 Old Town Hall

**Committee member attendance:** Kristin Battistoni, Tom Kobylenski, Jeff Lord, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Teresa Resnick, Linda Talbott

**Community residents:** Bobbi Guercia, Pat Hartman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Kristin Battistoni. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Linda Talbott and seconded by Joanne Nesti and carried unanimously.

Approval of January minutes: Sarah Neal's name was left off the attendance, however she was there. Linda Talbott will amend that. Motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Joanne Nesti and seconded by Jeff Lord and passed.

Approval of February minutes: Motion was made by Sarah Neal and seconded by Joanne Nesti and passed.

### **Old Business:**

**Food Waste Diversion Project:** Linda Talbott:

- February removed 2,625lbs food scraps; January was 2,225lbs
- As of today, Blue Earth Compost costs to the Town are \$882(\$30/wk; \$5wk/bin; \$1 wk/bin cleaning). Max# of bins filled so far is 7. Spread sheet was passed around for all to see.
- Once we get to filling 12 bins/week consistently, we go to a 2 yard dumpster. Ron Schulhof from Scarsdale NY who has had similar food scrap program there for 5-6 years feels a dumpster has negative effects due to flies, stink; however transfer station (TS) staff fears maggots when the bins are rolled into the side of the swap shack in the heat of the summer, so a dumpster might be better in that sense. Chris Corsa, the Assistant director of the TS will decide.
- As of 3/17/22, we have sold 91 of the 150 Starter kits. Thank you to John and Mary Nork for driving to Brookfield to pick up the 4 cases of Biobags that weren't available when we got the extra 50 kits.
- Bill for the extra 50 kits including the 4 cases of Biobags was \$742.52 and the bill for 50 stickers to put on the green transport bins was \$58. Bob McGarry agreed to pay for these.
- So far we have raised \$2816.95 through donations people have made and through sale of the starter kits and extra rolls of bags. Higganum Market now carries the 3 gallon compostable Biobags for around \$5.70 for a box of 25 bags.
- Patronicity platform through Sustainable CT didn't seem to work out for us. After the 3,666 post cards went out, the starter kits started flying off the shelves and we just continued with that. They wanted it all to go through the Patronicity platform so they could track the true donation amount. We gave them the figures on the "true donation" above the bottom line cost of the

Starter kits and the bags, but they were going to match only a portion of that. We are going to just continue selling them as we have been doing. Patronicity, now that we know how it works, could be used in the future for any other projects.

- Linda needs to wait before seeing if Haddam restaurants along with the markets want to try and do a deal with Blue Earth for their food scraps because Blue Earth needs to hire another sales person. School food recycling is also on hold because of that.
- Kristin asked if someone could write a letter to the editor about how easy the food scrap program is to do. Jeff Lord volunteered.

**Help Article:** Kristin Battistoni:

- Kristin has written an article that Joanne Nesti edited and will be published in H-K Now, Haddam-Killingworth News and Haddam Events. The article talks about easy ways for the community to get involved as we recognize that this committee has many ideas, but we need more help

**Solar:** Jeff Lord:

- Jeff wants to wait until bills going through the legislature are ironed out and passed. The bills include things like residential and small commercial rebates, tax credits, net metering, and battery energy storage. He doesn't want to set up a multi-town educational session with 3 reputable solar energy companies to educate the community until the dust settles on these bills, so the information presented is accurate and up to date.

**Community Garden:** Linda Talbott:

- The Haddam Garden club is too busy with all the gardens they maintain to take this on. Kate Wessling, MD, who for many years was on the Board of the Common Good Garden in Old Saybrook, says she is tied up being the Registrar of Democratic voters.
- Kristin hopes someone or a group in the community will respond to her article and may want to take on the Community Garden

**Transfer Station /Recycling Education:** Kristin Battisoni, Teresa Resnick:

- Kristin outlined all the recycling stations at the transfer Station as follows:
- Blue Earth Compost
- Bay State Textiles
- Light Bulbs, Batteries
- Electronics
- Mattresses
- Propane
- Oil
- Single Stream recycling
- Swap shack

- Teresa has tried to contact the Bay State representative but hasn't received a reply
- She stated we get about \$100/ton; however Kristin thought it was more than that.
- Better signage at the Textile Bins may help people to know what they can put in those bins
- The money earned from the Bay State textile bin at the Annex goes to Social Services Dept., whereas the money earned from Bay State textiles at the TS goes to the Town
- Teresa wants the community to be educated on this type of recycling and suggested a Power Point presentation and/or a skit be put on in the middle and high schools. It was suggested she contact the School Superintendent to see if this could be done either this year or next
- Town residents need to know how to differentiate between what to donate to The Community Closet at Social Services vs the Bay State textile program.
- The signage at the TS was discussed. There should be improved signage also at the light bulb and battery area
- Sarah Neal questioned about the recycling of plastics #1,#2 and beyond and wants an updated recycling list on the Public Works web site
- Kristin reminded us there is a free Recycle CT app for your phone that tells you if you can recycle something
- Joanne Nesti is trying to reach Take 2 to find out where old cell phone and other electronics go
- Jeff Lord suggested we table all this until after we hear from Tom Gaffey, CEO of MIRA at the Special Meeting we have planned in April

#### **Sustainability Meeting times on Town Calendar:**

- Joanne Nesti commented that the meeting times for our committee posted on the Town Calendar are conflicting. Kristin will make the appropriate changes. All meetings going forward at 6:30 pm, except the Special Meeting April 27 at 5 pm to accommodate Tom Gaffey, The Director of Recycling and Enforcement at MIRA, the trash to Energy Plant we use in Hartford.

#### **Where does our garbage go? : Joanne Nesti:**

- Joanne has contacted Tom Gaffey, of MIRA and he has agreed to come to our next meeting, April 27 at 5 pm to do a short presentation and answer all of our questions. If time allows after that, we can have a short business meeting.

#### **River COG:**

- Joanne wants the new 2022 River COG brochure to be posted on the Public Works website

#### **Recycle Corner at Town Office Bldg.: Kristin Battistoni**

- Terra Cycle container(razors), Head and Shoulders, Pantene shampoo recycling is also located there, as well as toothpaste, toothbrush recycling
- There is a new young adult book library as you enter the Town Office Bldg. It has been very successful, but more books are needed. Kristin started this and doesn't want people dumping old books and magazines, but books in good condition are good

- Linda Talbott mentioned that Haddam has a Discover Book bin located at Fireworks Hearth and Home (112 Bridge Road) as you begin to drive over toward the East Haddam Bridge. Discover Books is a for profit organization that takes soft and hard cover books, and recycles them, or donates them or resells them. Hard covers do not need to be removed by the donor.
- Kristin is hoping someone in the community would volunteer their time to do a wall mural in the Recycle Corner
- Plastic program: Kristin described the recycling program we have had in place for a few years now where soft plastic is collected in plastic bags and weighed and stored in a small shed behind the Town office Building. Volunteers take the plastic to Middletown Stop and Shop where they contract with TREX who uses it to make their products. We have earned about three or four Trex made benches for Haddam since the program began. Presently we have 126#. Anyone can volunteer to take some of the plastic stored there. Email Kristin at [taxcollect@haddam.org](mailto:taxcollect@haddam.org) with the amount of poundage you take. You can guess if no weight is marked on the bag you take.
- Melissa Oddo collected a list of stores participating in this plastic program, but many shut it down during Covid. Kristin will email Teresa the list so she can call to see who else is participating besides Middletown Stop and Shop.

#### **Social Media:**

- We still need someone to manage Facebook, Instagram, and website.

#### **Shred It: Tom Kobylenski:**

- Haddam Shred It Event is May 7 from 9 to noon. It is a \$5 donation with \$ raised going to Social Services. Last year 5,000 lbs. of paper was shredded and \$1300 was raised.
- If you shred at home, you can bring it there also. All Town offices have been notified
- Women's High School Lacrosse is going to be selling baked goods. Kristin wrote an article to go into Haddam Now.
- Tom reported ¼ of a page ad is \$175 in the Haddam Killingworth Newspaper. Maybe they would do an insert?

#### **Sustainability Committee Budget: Kristin Battistoni:**

- The Haddam Board of Selectmen has approved a budget for us of \$2000. The Haddam Board of Finance still has to approve it. Bravo!

#### **New Business:**

- Kristin indicated she would like to step down as chair of the Sustainability Committee in May as her tax collector job ramps up in the summer. She would continue to be liaison between the Town government and the committee. Discussion was held. Joanne Nesti volunteered to be Co-Chair with Kristin. Linda Talbott volunteered to write the agenda for meetings.
- A job description of co-chair responsibilities and delegation of duties could be discussed at the May meeting

- Tom Kobylenski stated River COG Household Hazardous Waste will no longer be done at the Essex site. Instead, they are coming to Haddam Elementary school from 9 to 1 pm August 20 and October 1
- How to educate the community on recycling, maybe updating the transfer station flyer and adding some additional signage could be part of the May meeting agenda.

**Adjournment:**

- Jeff Lord motioned to adjourn and Tom Kobylenski seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

**Next meeting: Special meeting to be held from 5 pm to 7 pm on Wednesday April 27,2022 at the Old Town Hall**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Talbott, Secretary

Addendum: Discovery Books does not take magazines. Those can be recycled in Single Stream at the transfer station.