**Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 25, 2023, Old Town Hall, 6:30 pm**

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

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Was said by all.

**Motion to amend the agenda:** Made by Joanne Nesti and seconded by Sarah Neal. Motion to add Treasurer’s report in Old Business was made by Linda Talbott and seconded by Sarah Neal. Motion to accept this change was made by Helen Hastings and seconded by Sarah Neal and motion passed.

**Motion to accept the March 28, 2023, meeting minutes:** Made by Sarah Neal and seconded by Helen Hastings and was passed.

**Old Business:**

* **Food Scrap:** Linda Talbott reported: to date 58,630 lbs or 29.3 tons food scraps removed from MSW, however Blue Earth says 60,330lbs so she will check with them on this. 50 new black 2-gallon countertop bins and 50 6- gallon green transport bins were picked up in Ridgefield from HRRA at a cost of $612.50. 50 food scrap item stickers from Ellington printing are $58. The 2-gallon Biobags are being ordered from BioBag in Florida at a cost of about $147.18(invoice not in yet). So total cost will be about $949.38. Linda passed out a spreadsheet listing the tonnage of MSW along with the food scraps lbs/tonnage removed going from December 2021 when the program started to the end of March 2023. Haddam MSW (trash only) tonnage in that time period was 1729T. Food Scrap tonnage was 29.3 tons. Blue Earth Compost costs in that entire time $4578.08 which includes some 5-7% diesel surcharges. It is imperative that more people participate in this program. It was noted by Joanne Nesti and Linda that the governor has a bill before the legislature that will require all CT residents to remove food scraps from trash by 2026, if the bill passes. Gail stated Christine Palm’s newsletter outlines all the bills and there is an environmental bill section. Teresa Resnick would like the state to be more involved in helping communities with this effort. The legislation would require food scrap removal by hospitals, schools, restaurants with a certain volume of food waste and who are within 20 miles of an anaerobic digester or other facility that processes food scraps to remove them from MSW. Teresa has represented Blue Earth Compost in area towns recently helping to educate townspeople in Glastonbury and Branford about what Blue Earth does.
* **Trex Plastic:** Kristin Battistoni reported that we have only 340 of the 500 lbs needed before the end of the 6 months of collection to get another bench, however, people are bringing the plastic from the shed to Stop and Shop without telling Kris the poundage. She wants to get clarification from Trex about 2 plastic bags she brought that clearly state they are recyclable, but unsure if they meet Trex standards.
* **Ballfield Recycling:** Joanne Nesti is still trying to connect with Park and Rec new officers. Gail had photos of what Wesleyan does on their fields for recycling. Joanne will try to put signage again on the ball field bins and see if she can attend one of the Park and Rec meetings again.
* **Textile recycling:** Teresa Resnick has worked with John Mercier, Operations Director, and Jeff Wihbey’s office(School Superintendent) and as a result a new Baystate textile bin has been placed at the HKIS,HKMS near soccer field and another behind Park and Rec white building. HK logo stickers and stickers stating what items can go in will be placed on them soon. Teresa talked to the two school principals, and they will announce it in the mornings. It was suggested that the announcement be made periodically. Baystate just raised the money earned from $100/T to $120/T!! Every month Baystate will send the school the # lbs collected and an end of the year report also. Teresa will see if she can get the end of the year report.
* **RSD 17 student compost brochures:** Linda stated the students at HKHS are still working on a digital compost brochure more user friendly but it won’t be ready until end of May.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Kristin Battistoni reported we have 2 accounts: 1 for the Food Scrap program supplies in which there is $1162 in donations. Earlier we spent $131.70 for 2 cases Biobags. Now we are spending about $$802.20(no invoice yet for the 3 cases of Biobags needed for the 50 new starter kits.) This leaves $359.80 in that account before the new bag order is added. Since money is taken in by the donations of the starter kits, this account continues to roll over into each new fiscal year and grows as kits are sold. The other account is $1500. $790 of that is spent on hiring the Shred It company plus the ad $174 which leaves $536 in that account. That money will go away if it isn’t spent and will be discussed under New Business

**New Business:**

* **Welcome Baskets:** Helen Hastings spoke to Dawn Tarbetsky (Assistant Town Clerk): there are various community brochures on the Town Clerk’s counter that new and old residents are encouraged to take, but no formal welcome packet. Grade 2 school children do take a field trip there and are given Town info to take back home. Helen learned that the Haddam Lions Club made a phone directory for townspeople, however, that was before cell phones were common and may be out of date. Kristin stated her Congregational Church received a grant and wants to put together a list of services, businesses in town and perhaps could partner with our committee on this idea. Teresa Resnick raised an objection to this idea, suggesting it is outside the scope of Sustainability. It was suggested that Helen check with the Haddam Women’s Club and maybe the Lions Club to see if either has done anything along this line. The reasoning is to get out to the public information that would apply to Sustainability like: How to Recycle correctly, the Textile Program, Food Scrap composting, etc.
* **Postcard mailing:** Kristin strongly feels we need to let the community know there are 50 new starter kits and Linda received these quotes on cost: 4 x 6 postcard (ABCO printing) for 3600 to print and mail: $1140. 4 x 6 card on heavy stock (required by newspaper) insert with color printing on both sides: one side Textile program, one side Food Scrap update $465. Newspaper fee to insert it into 4600 Haddam Higganum and Haddam Neck papers=$250 so total for insert= $715. As noted above we are about $180 short in the $1500 budget the town gave us if we decide to go ahead with this. Kristin Battistoni and Joanne Nesti said they will donate $100 each toward this. It is important to note that next year we need to figure out a flyer on how to recycle properly and will need to budget for that. It was suggested at the Farmer’s Market a donation bucket be placed in our booth. The committee agreed to go ahead with the 4 x 6 insert. Teresa can write up what the Textile side should say, and Kristin has some Baystate info she can pass on to Teresa. Linda will update the Food Scrap side.
* **Articles in HKNow and Newspaper:** Joanne has submitted an Earth Day article and Teresa has submitted articles on the Textile Program. Andree Pias, Emily Milcent and Linda Talbott submitted an article also about what students in the school are doing and also how the Food Scrap program is going.
* **Farmer’s Market:** Joanne Nesti doing the Committee booth on June 3 at the Brainerd Library Ag Fair, Sarah Neal and Emily Milcent are volunteering at the market June 10, Melissa Oddo is doing August 19, Helen Hastings, July 8. New day: Farmer’s Market Saturdays 9 to noon at HES. Email Linda at jtalbott45@gmail.com if you wish to do a Saturday.
* **Haddam Meadows Clean Up Day:** Second cleanup is May 13
* **Shred It Event:** May 13 9 to noon at the Higganum Community Center. Joanne will do a short reminder in HKNow and Newspaper
* **Sustainable CT discussion:** There are some committee members and Town officials who are in support of trying to do this and others who aren’t. Gail Reynolds will ask the Conservation Commission if they would like to get involved. It is very time-consuming to do all the actions and there are deadlines. Teresa Resnick will contact Sustainable CT to see if they would be willing to come to the May meeting and talk to the committee about what is involved. Kristin again reiterated that a Project Manager is needed to see that everyone involved can upload their items into the actions.

**Motion to adjourn:**

* Motion made by Gail Reynolds and seconded by Helen Hastings. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.
* **Next meeting May 23, 6:30 pm at Old Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, Linda Talbott, Secretary