Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting

May 23, 2023, Old Town Hall, 6:30pm-8pm

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Joanne Nesti at 6:31 pm

**Attendance:** Kristy Benson-Amarante, Helen Hastings, Sarah Neal, Joanne Nesti, Teresa Resnick, Gail Reynolds, Linda Talbott

**Motion to accept the agenda:** Linda Talbott made a request that the agenda be amended due to a last-minute request from a HKHS student. Sarah Neal made a motion to amend the agenda to put the student request last on the agenda under New Business and Gail Reynolds seconded it and it passed.

**Motion to accept meeting minutes of April 25, 2023:** Motion made by Gail Reynolds and seconded by Sarah Neal and it passed.

**Old Business:**

* **Food Scraps:** Linda Talbott : April: 4,250lbs food scraps composted, so total is 64,8555 lbs which is 32.43 Tons. Blue Earth Compost no longer uses 2 yd dumpsters, so must fill 18 bins consistently to get a 3 yd dumpster. We fill 8/average. One week we filled 11 bins because the BEC truck was in for repairs and came late. 50 new starter kits at TOB. Thank you to Helen Hastings for helping to put them together. ABCO printing did the design for the 4 x 6 in insert for the papers and did not charge us anything for the design. So total cost of print ($465) and to insert ($250) will be $715. It should go into the paper on Thursday June 15.
* **TREX plastic:** we have around 340-400 lbs of soft plastic which is still under the goal of 500lbs.
* **Ballpark recycling:** Joanne Nesti: posters put on the trash and recycling bins were ripped off again. Not done by Pete’s garbage removal. She will continue to meet with Park & Rec for solutions. Teresa Resnick went to a Middletown walkathon event, and they had many volunteers posted at every trash/recycling pail to improve compliance. Joanne reported the Chester Fair did the same thing last year.
* **Textiles:** Teresa Resnick: the new HKIS/HKMS textile bin filled rapidly probably due to the fact that the Principals promoted it. She contacted the HKHS principal’s office to see if they can promote theirs in a newsletter.

**New Business:**

* **Lunch and Learn:** Teresa will be speaking to the Senior Center 3rd week in June about environmentally safe practices. Linda Talbott reported she will be speaking about the food scrap program to combined Club 60 and the Seniors at the annual Senior Picnic which will be held this year at St. James Church Parish Hall on Rte 81. She will contact Bob Waller to add Teresa to the program to talk about the Textile Program.
* **Shred It Event:** Joanne Nesti reported we raised $715 for Social Services from this event.
* **Laundry sheets:** Teresa’s sister orders laundry sheets packaged in paper envelopes in bulk, and she is wondering if the committee would like to buy some and resell them to the community. It was pointed out that many items like this may say “not for resale” so that may not be possible. Kristin Battistoni had suggested to Linda that we hand out some as samples at the Farmer’s Market. Sarah Neal checked on the Environmentally Working Group (EWG) site who rates many products on their chemical content, not their packaging. TruEarth laundry sheets rated a D and Earth Breeze rated a C. No decision made.
* **Jessica LeClair from Sustainable CT joined via zoom:** Jessica walked the committee through how to sign into the Haddam Sustainable CT web site with your name, email you choose a password. After that you need to email jessical@sustainablect.org and she will link your name, email to Haddam’s account. New actions are as of January 1, 2020. So, the look back period for new actions is 3 years. Some actions are “rolling”, and some are “new”. The site explains the difference. The next deadline for certification is August 15, 2023. Gail Reynolds asked if the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which was done in 2018 and is only done every 10 years would be acceptable: Jessica stated if the Town Planner looked it over and “no update needed” it may pass as a rolling credit.
* **Sustainable CT:** events we have had would apply: Shred It, speaking before groups like Linda did to the Haddam Garden Club, Historical Society , Burr PTO, RSD #17 group. Farmer’s Market if it is a certified market and had 6 dates a year and if supported by the town through advertising on social media or other, would apply on Action 10.5. Mentoring other towns would apply. Roslyn Reeps is the Killingworth person for their Sustainable CT application.
* **Sustainable CT:** Fellows are available to help in the summer. Be judicious as to who you want to have access to Haddam’s site and who would just be a “viewer”. Each action has different requirements, so you have to view the details.
* **T Shirts:** Teresa Resnick would like the committee members to purchase T shirts we can wear at the Farmer’s Market and other events. Each shirt would cost members $15-$16 each shirt and we need 18 purchased to start plus $25-$35 to have the company do the set up for printing. Teresa will show us a mockup of the shirts and what the T shirts look like at the next meeting.
* **Welcome baskets:** Helen Hastings reported that Kristin Battistoni’s church and the Women’s Club are interested in working on this idea. Kristy Benson-Amarante has a welcome table at the Farmer’s Market and has been trying to coordinate with other town groups to find some way to promote all the events that go on in one platform. The welcome basket or whatever form it takes is a way to introduce newcomers to Haddam about what groups and events exist here.
* **HKHS students community service:** A HKHS student contacted Kristin Battistoni asking if she and a friend collected trash at Haddam Meadows or elsewhere in town and sent photos could she sign off on their community service sheet? Committee members stressed this is an important thing for high schoolers to have to do and Joanne Nesti wants to meet with these students to clarify how this would work. Questions raised? Will they recycle what they find? Will they bring trash to the TS station? Maybe video of them doing it would work? Kristy emails the HKHS Guidance counselors for volunteers to help at the Farmer’s Market and often gets a good response. Joanne may reach out to find students for the ballfield recycling/trash compliance project. Kristy will be getting picnic tables for the Farmer’s Market which may be placed where sustainability Committee booth area was under the tree. We will have to provide a shade canopy.
* **The next meeting is June 27, 2023 at 6:30 pm.** No meetings in July and August.
* **Motion to adjourn:** Made by Sarah Neal and seconded by Helen Hastings and meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Talbott, Secretary