Haddam Sustainability Committee Meeting

April 29, 2019

In attendance: Alan Andeen, Chris Karageorgos, Lizz Milardo, Heather Minetti, Robin Munster, Teresa Resnick, Gail Reynolds, Linda Talbott

The meeting was called to order by Robin Munster at 6:10 pm. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 26th meeting.

March 6th Sustainability Community Event

 Jess Le Clair from Sustainable CT did her presentation to the townspeople attending

 Good turn out with 50 + people attending

 Lizz reported a high school student and Girl Scout , Ava Tassemer, wants to do a project

 A 5th grader spoke up that the town should ban all plastic bags

 Many people said they are interested in helping our Committee; a larger venue may be

 considered if we repeat this event

Textile Recycling:

 Teresa is interested in promoting a strategic public drive for textile recycling

 She suggested a morning outside the Higganum Market where people could drop off items

 Volunteers would then take them to the textile trailer at the dump. She also suggested having a

 large magnetic sign be made to put on the trailer at the dump.

 Flyers could be made explaining about the textile recycling which the town earns money/ton for

 There is a bin at the town hall for textiles also

 Teresa wants to go to the schools to educate youth and teachers about this aspect of recycling.

 The clothing closet has been very successful. People need to know how to differentiate

 between what textiles they donate for reuse and what they can donate to recycle.

Transfer Station:

 Lizz mentioned that one employee at the transfer station with be out for at least 6 weeks due to

 surgery. There have been many violations occurring at our dump. A recent company was sited

 for their third violation and they were arrested. She said in the past, Haddam has been known

 to be lenient with out of town people or those without permits coming to dump.

 We have to pay to break down brush. We subsidize the transfer station but only 42% of town

 residents have passes.

 Chris asked about opening another gate at the transfer station, but Gail and Robin said the state

 may object due to the RR crossing there.

 People have been coming to the metal recycling at the dump and stealing from there. The town

 also recoups money from the metal as well as from plastic bags, electronics.

Recycle issues:

 Lizz sits on the MIRA Board ( Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) and states the state

 is running out of places to put garbage. The cost for recycling for Haddam is 0 until 2021 then

 we will have to pay $30 per ton. Tires can’t be recycled. Commercial people come in with

 motor oil which is another problem. 1 ton of textiles gets the town $100; 1 ton garbage is

 subsidized due to MIRA; cost: $89/ton; we save $ 105/ton.

 We need to remind people what they can recycle and how to do it. Discussion was held to put

 a separate insert into the Haddam News on recycling as there are new rules and also where to

 recycle.

Plastic bag recycle:

 Plastic bag collection: Melissa Oddo is working on a spread sheet for grocery stores that take

 plastic bags. Town Hall needs donations of large clean garbage plastic bags to put the plastic

 recycling into and volunteers are needed to take these to the transfer station.

 There is a plastic recycling container at the Town Hall, at the transfer station, the Brainerd

 Library, the Annex Building, Nutmeg pharmacy & River Valley provisions. We met the goal from Trex and have received and installed our first bench

 on Rte 81 in Higganum Center near the former Citizen’s Bank. Starting May 1 we will work

 toward collecting another 500 lbs in 6 months to earn a second bench.

 It was suggested the second bench might be placed at the Higganum

 Reservoir. Lizz said we may need to get permission from the state for that site.

How to Recycle Event:

 Robin suggested this event be done in the summer, but others thought maybe early fall.

 Robin wants ideas for this event to be brought to the next meeting. She had looked into

 purchasing recycling bins from a Canadian company at a low price and the plan was to

 buy about 300 of them and give or sell to townspeople who have transfer station passes

 at a nominal fee ( $5); however the customs issue and shipping ended up costing more than

 the cost of the containers. Perhaps there are grants available from the government for these

 bins and Robin is looking into this.

 The four trash haulers we use are required by state law to provide education and to provide

 recycling bins to their customers. So maybe they could be invited to the Recycle Event.

 Composting might be a part of this event. Gail Reynolds is a Master Gardener/Composter and

 could educate at this event.

 A suggestion was made that the high school student who was looking for a project could

 make a video on the plastic recycling.

Farmers Market:

 June 13 is first farmer’s market on Higganum Green. It will be held first and third Thursdays

 of the month 4:30-6:30 pm. EDC is running this. There are two farms with vegetables including

 Wellstone farm. There will be a composting event at the farmers market in June.

Sustainability articles:

 It was suggested committee members or others might consider writing a twice a month

 article and submit it to Haddam Now at editor@haddamnow.com.

Haddam Land Trust:

 Gail passed out information that Haddam Land Trust is having a Native Plant Sale

 Saturday May 18, 2019 at the UConn Extension Center , 1066 Saybrook Road 9-4

 [www.hltrust.org/plant-sale](http://www.hltrust.org/plant-sale)

Sustainability CT Certification :

 Review was held on various categories Haddam has completed working toward bronze

 Certification ( 200 pts). Half way deadline is May 1 and uploading to the web site has to be

 completed by then. Go to info@sustainablect.org and track on Haddam’s dashboard.

Overview discussion:

 2.0 Well Stewarded Land & Natural Resources: town has held invasive species clean up; Lizz

 reported Haddam is getting an award for clean drinking water

 Gail Reynolds discussed that in Fairfield County Pollinator Pathways are being planted

 using native plants in an undisturbed pathway. Gail may talk to Haddam Garden Club

 Lizz suggested river COG may want to get involved. This is a possibility to initiate.

 New Town Planner Bill Warner has uploaded open space plan

 3.0 Efficient Physical Infrastructure & Operations: Reducing energy & increasing use of renew-

 able energy in Municipal buildings: either has been done or is in the process.

 Managing municipal fleets: GPS in trucks now

 A plan for the firehouse was completed with Eversource

 Eversource installed LED lights in Higganum Center and in town hall

 Solar panels were installed on Public Works: town garage has them

 An energy audit of town buildings has been done as well as shutting off blowers in

 firehouses when the garage doors are opened.

 Town has had one solar event in the past and Lizz wants to do another.

 Jeff Lord is the expert in this area, but was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

 Lizz wants to have him vet a different vendor than the one used previously

 5.0 Dynamic and Resilient Planning: Agricultural Friendly Practices was discussed

 Lizz will get a map of local farms in the area. Gail discussed organic farming and mentioned

 that in reality it is difficult to grow things without some pesticide use; farmers pledge

 not to use excessive chemicals.

 Cold Goats Farm is located in Haddam Neck and raises angora goats for their wool.

 Discussion was held about City Bench with offices in Higganum and New Haven. They create

 functional furniture out of trees being removed in urban and rural areas. The committee

 wasn’t sure if anything could be uploaded to the site under this category.

 Inventory & Assess Historic Resources: Elizabeth Malloy may have a list of historic houses in

 Haddam and Gail said she has a story map on this.

 6.0 Clean & Diverse Transportation Systems & Choices: Complete Streets: Liz Glidden worked

 on this and now Bill Warner is

 7.0 Strategic and Inclusive Public Services: We held a Sustainability Event; Recycle additional

 Materials: plastics and textiles added; a Health impact Assessment was done through

 Middlesex Hospital in the past and will need to be uploaded to the site.

 8.0Thriving Local Economies: Support Redevelopment of Brownfield sites: Higganum Cove

 Completed, water in Tylerville moving forward, Scovil Hoe building: we have received

 a $175,000 grant. We applied for a 1 million dollar grant which we didn’t get. Lizz reported

 Scovil Hoe is one of 5 mills designated by the state legislature to be preserved. A market

 study was done and now we are the point where remediation is needed. USDA will write a

 2% loan: ideas are Regional Farmer’s Market , Farm to Table restaurant, Maker space for

 small businesses. Because this mill is on the state list, we need the legislature to fund it.

 Haddam is next in line, but UConn campus is West Hartford may take precedent over Scovil

 Lizz will lobby this if there is time. The Scovil Hoe buildings are in good shape. Soils have been

 tested at the Higganum green and HES site and they are adequate for a community septic.

 Lizz reported we got $300,000 for the jail and indicated a restaurant may want to go in there.

Next meeting is Tuesday May 21 at 600 pm. Robin wants ideas for a How to Recycle Event to be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Linda Talbott