Sustainability Committee Meeting

November 27th 6pm

Attendance:

Lizz Milardo, Kristin Battistoni, Robin Munster, Jeff Lord, Neal Perron, Chip Frey, Lauren Crowley

Introductions of all new members.

Lizz Milardo stated open to have as many people as we would like on the committee, develop sub-committee.

1. Overview
   1. November. 2017, the State of CT kicked off Sustainable CT program mirror the program started via New Jersey. The Town of Haddam embraced this and have adopted the resolution. Every town can participate in the with this and points are earned for completing the tasks. The latest CCM convention went over what has been done with towns as of now. Involve this as a community event and have a grassroots effort. Sustainable CT has a web site with initiative and as a committee will review them, decide what can be done.
   2. Current project is the recycling of plastic bags where Kristin started the initiative of collecting the bags to recycle and convert to a bench with Trex. Kristin explained the recycling program at town office building and the details about the collection of the bags and the current results with who is participating in the program as drop off points. 78 pounds was collected at the Transfer Station in the first day. Chip Frey asked where the collection area was located at the Transfer Station, Kristin pointed out the located and that is was only a week of being visible to the public. Kristin stated every six months with 500 pounds we can receive a bench with no haul fee being payed and not in the land fill. Bags have to be deleivered to a distribution center for the program. Lizz Milardo stated to lower the carbon foot print, we would prefer not to have a special trip but if anyone is going to be in the area of the distribution center to drop them off then. Lizz stated MIRA will not be taking recyclables anymore due to China is not buying as much, the cost of trash will increase substantially. By taking out the plastic bags for this program, we are actually lightening the load of the amount going out of the transfer station and reducing costs. Kristin Battistoni stated that recycling has been more of a focus at Town Office and noting the Dunkin Donut cups are recyclable. She reviewed the 1-7 recycling items and the need to educate the public. Lizz pointed out the last time we had recycling bins for the town was over 25 years ago and the need to offer this service again making it easy to recycle. Lizz reviewed the Shred It event that was on Small Business Saturday 11/24/2018 which has never been done in town and we used this as a fundraising event for the Fuel Bank raising $750 charging $5 a bag or box with Girl Scouts involved helping unloading. Lizz pointed out the energy efficiency work with the Firehouse changing the lights to LED and the garage doors regarding the heat turning on and off. She pointed out that there are many concerns regarding what is going on in town and this portion is not politically driven and more of a positive piece. Neal Perron questioned if the street lights listed on the initiative and done at the Firehouse would be counted which Lizz confirmed as there is a look back timeline. LED lights were replaced on Saybrook Road with Eversource. Neal asked the procedure for street light replacement of bulbs and Lizz stated you need the pole number and if the light is out, Eversource will replace with LED. Neal asked about the recycling pick up for Town Hall, Haddam Neck Fire Department has All Waste and offers all of the bins.
   3. Chip Frey asked about retroactive on some of the initiatives listed on the check list. Lizz brought up Solar and how we already had a program but we could offer it again. Chip brought up the Town Garage having installed the solar panels and private residence. Due to the one vendor and issues on the last solar event with Bee Free Solar, there will be at least three vendors to choose from. The fees were waved on the last event but will now not be due to changed in Town meeting. Chip pointed out the solar panels have not been done yet but will soon. Lauren pointed out the people seem to be more comfortable with Solar and the idea of doing it. Lizz pointed out that Assessing the panels have also changed with leasing and owning. Jeff Lord asked if they are tax exempt with residence. Lizz pointed out this needs to be clear and understood when we get to this point of offering. Jeff Lord pointed out the timing is right with Solar and the legislation. The new administration will be deciding the green bank funding, looking at other states such as Massachusetts and New Jersey, Jeff can provide what works with other towns. The state has a list of solar vendors cleared and vetted and the town would have three to work with.
   4. Jeff Lord asked if the school can be involved with projects and this program, Lizz stated Eagle Scout projects earning their community time. Robin Munster stated HK Youth and Family Services also can be involved.
   5. Lizz reviewed the Land and Natural Resource portion with DPH having a drought and water study done via the State of CT, many of these items listed can be checked off once the town hires a new Town Planner. Invasive species portion, Lizz stated RiverCogg and the use of Uconn could help us. Gayle Renyolds could also help with the Land Trust. Kristin brought up the Higganum Cove with Land Trust and the help that had been done. Chip asked about how we submit what we have done and Lizz reviewed the procedure and a write up submitted to Sustainable CT.
   6. Chip Frey asked about the POCD committee and passing out the initiatives to the other town committees which Lizz agreed can be done.
   7. Neal Perron pointed out Pete Smith from Haddam Neck working with Land Trust to have him involved. Neal will check with him if interested.
   8. Jeff Lord reminded Lizz we studied all of the Town buildings with the former Energy Committee that we have information on this. An education campaign could be done with regarding to Solar, or other programs, maybe doing this around Earth Day.
   9. EDC and HKYFS and Library for cultural places, maybe the Cove being tied in again with music. Chip Frey asked if it is only in town, can we look at other towns and Robin Munster reminded that this is within Haddam, Sustainable with in your town.
   10. Lizz appointed Keven McManus to the Emergency Operations Center. Grants need to be taken advantage of to update our emergency communications. Lizz spoke of the past winter storm issues the town had and getting the communication out to residence and tracking, no center of communication. HKMS was designated the emergency shelter with Red Cross and was difficult trying to pass this information on to residence, worked with Social Services for High Meadow. Neal Perron reviewed the CERT team which Haddam Neck had and East Haddam which there are text, email and reverse 911 to every resident in town and each road checks in with team leaders. Lizz stated that a CERT Team needs to be put together for Haddam area.
   11. Lizz reviewed the check list and pointed out joining the CROG saving hundreds of dollars regarding to supplies. Lizz explained housing needs and the perception of affordable versus low income housing with regarding to renting and housing for seniors. Lauren Crowley asked if The Saybrook of Haddam could help in an emergency, could be looked in to.
   12. Neal pointed out wildlife inventory and using Capt. Mark with RiverQuest, Lizz agreed.
   13. Develop a gain plan and a short list, Lizz will come back with a list of what has already been done. This is a forever project and Kristin pointed out it is a lifestyle change. Robin Munster pointed out to see what other towns have done at Sustainable CT, composting projects and recycling. Neal suggested a drop off location for the plastic bags in Haddam Neck at the Church, he will check to verify it can be done versus using the firehouse.
   14. Neal Perron pointed out tracking information such as for the Firehouse calls in used for applying to grants. Same would be for emergency communications.
   15. Jeff Lord noted he would help with his expertise with Solar, everyone has something to contribute. Jeff is also certified with Homeland Security and he can review and help along with resources.
   16. Lizz reminded this committee is about community, a good impact on the town.
   17. Lauren Crowley pointed out Ginny Murphy and Jack Murphy to get involved, having kids involved. Lizz stated Scouts and high school community service.
   18. Jeff Lord reminded about being consistent and educating the public, utilizing our town news media. Chip Frey pointed out community agenda and Social Media involved. Lizz stated to have the schools involved , need to go via guidance counselors and being specific. Tie energy event to Market on the Green with a booth, theme it each month and what can be done. Jeff pointed out with bins being visually friendly. Lizz brought up the recycling paint with PaintCare to be done soon. Jeff Lord brought up the Florescent Light bulb recycling issue and replacing with LED’s, how it is done. Lizz reminded we can have a Haddam Hazardous Waste collection. Questions were asked about batteries also and how to dispose.
   19. Setting up future meetings, 6pm time and 1st, third or fourth Tuesday of the month. Picking a date in January. Plan of action will be done, develop sub-committee developed. Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.