Sustainable CT. He said he has projects in mind Marlborough can benefit from in being part of community Match Fund is one of the things projects happening throughout the state. Match Fund, Sustainable CT has over 60 community Match Fund has had “great results.” project,” Stoddard said, adding that the Com- raised. Then, Sustainable CT matches every dollar individual with fundraising for the project. murals – the organization would work with that community garden, pollinator pathways or art sustainability projects in towns. She said that Fund provides money for community-led towards making them more healthy and livable,” Stoddard said. Sustainable CT was founded in 2017 and so far 110 out of 169 towns in Connecticut have joined the organization. Forty-eight of those towns have completed the certification pro- gram. “It’s been a lot of engagement by towns, and a lot of hard work, and a lot of great impact on their communities making them more healthy and livable,” Stoddard said. Sustainable CT is “completely independently funded” by grants, she added. The organization is run by the Institute for Sus- tainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University. While it is an independent organization, Sus- tainable CT is aligned with state government goals such as the climate goals for Connecticut in reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. “We are aligned with that and wanting to do it faster and go further,” Stoddard said. She said Sustainable CT partners with state agencies to collaborate with sustainability work. Sustainable CT is free to join and it offers a variety of free services such as consulting and support services among other resources. Stoddard said that equity is “a strong com- ponent” of the programs at Sustainable CT. The organization encourages communities to be- come more inclusive, and part of that is offer- ing free equity coaching to towns. In addition, Sustainable CT recognizes and encourages sustainability through nine differ- ent categories, including: thriving local econo- mies; well-stewed land and natural re- sources; vibrant and creative cultural ecosys- tems; dynamic and resilient planning; clean and diverse transportation systems and choices; ef- ficient physical infrastructure and operations; strategic and inclusive public services; healthy housing options; and inclusive and equitable community impacts. All of those categories have actions within them. Towns must complete at least one action per category to earn the certification. According to Hilding-Salorio, an example of an action could be to benchmark and track en- ergy use with goals such as to reduce energy use across municipal buildings by 10%. The certification program works with points that are accumulated through these actions. Towns document the actions they take to earn points. Twice a year, Sustainable CT offers cer- tification cycles. In order to get certification, a certain amount of points are needed. Towns that earn enough points can be certified in bronze or silver levels. Stoddard said they encourage towns take these actions because they want towns to show that they are paying attention to a broad range of issues. Town certifications are for the whole Sustainable CT program. The certification lasts three years. Towns can apply for re-certifica- tion after completing the three years. “They have to demonstrate continued action and progress,” Stoddard said. The certification program was built with rep- resentation from every town in the state. The actions within the categories were developed after town representatives mentioned them as important to the towns. Stoddard said that the purpose of Sustain- able CT is to help inspire, support and celebrate healthy communities in Connecticut. Also, part of their goal is to support helping towns be- come healthy and resilient though their pro- gramming. Stoddard said they accomplish part of pur- pose by showcasing what towns have done. They help celebrate and recognize what towns are doing with the certification program. “We want in this package of things to help move towns in Connecticut towards being more inclusive and resilient and vibrant and great places where people want to live and work,” Stoddard said.