



# Salem Recycles Committee

## Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

6:30pm, City Hall Annex 1st Floor, Conference Room

Appointed Members: Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnell, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer  
City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

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### Attending:

Appointed Members: Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Sandy O'Donnell, Brian Romer  
City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Absent: Lucie Patrowicz, Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Daniell Hepting

### Recycling Committee Mission Statement

The mission of SalemRecycles, a committee appointed by the Mayor, is to reduce trash tonnage in the City of Salem by increasing recycling, diverting reusable items, and motivating city stakeholders through education and information.

### Old Business

Approve January 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Carol Hautau, Second: Catherine Deyo, Vote: approved with minor corrections

Event Recap: Jan 13th Styrofoam Collection Event

Carol: Truck was completely full, volunteers were worried they would have to turn people away- considered very successful. Because truck was so full, committee is considering not allowing people from towns who are not paying for the service, even though it would be very difficult, because there is a large fee to provide this service

Janelle has not received breakdown of towns contributing yet

ACTION: Janelle asking for a breakdown of # of cars per town

### Upcoming Events

Repair Cafe & TerraCycle Collection Event, Feb 10th, 9am-12pm: Demi

Task force is going well, 22 appointments currently on the waitlist, Essex Tech students have openings, should share that there are openings so they have more appointments

“City Hall to Go” may be attending as a Q&A table - Janelle to confirm

Demi to send Janelle set up list of who is going where before Friday afternoon for set up

Saturday: all volunteers start at 8:30am (Task force members + 1)

Volunteer shifts are covered, but more are welcome

Reusable coffee mugs: Demi is including this point in her email correspondence

Catherine bringing packets of sugar, 30 is plenty

Janelle picking up Dunkin' coffee box, oat milk, and regular milk.

Book Swap & TerraCycle Collection Event, March 23rd

Feb Newsletter includes this, Janelle is already getting inquiries, Nancy has posted it on Facebook, Nancy added a volunteer registration link to the event on Facebook

Fri set up: 3:45-7pm, always plenty of volunteers, anticipate books having already dropped off even though they are not supposed to do that

Saturday: volunteers arrive 8:30-11 & 11-1:30, Janelle has to leave at 12, so she is finding another City employee to close up the CLC post-event & manage event materials, Janelle will gather materials  
Committee Members are to use the same sign-up as the public

Discover Books is scheduled to pick up left overs

“City Hall to Go” may be attending as a Q&A table - Janelle to confirm

Lawn Signs: they say “This Saturday” - so can only be put up the week before the event. Committee members can get them from Janelle

Alkaline batteries

Janelle has been having conversations about adding a bin for alkaline batteries at events and keeping a bin full time at the City Hall Annex - more info coming

**New Business**

Update on Carlton School Composting - Janelle

Phase 1/ Begun in Sept, working w/Staff continues to go well, presentation shown to students

Phase 2/Students composting in cafeteria: 2 volunteers during lunch for 3 weeks guiding students in placement - been going very well

Uneaten & unopened food:

Students discard a good amount of unused food. To discourage waste, they can separate these items for other students.

Cold items are placed in a cooler and room temp items are placed in a milk crate

Students can take items from these bins and they are doing that successfully

Any leftover unopened food at the end of the lunch shift goes into a container in the cafeteria, cold items are kept cold.

Once a week, all perishable left overs are taken to the Salem Pantry for distribution.

Trays:

Students stack their trays on the table. These are not certified compostable so cannot be composted with Black Earth. Food & Nutrition Services is looking to order certified compostable trays.

Results To Date:

Black Earth Compost has collected **2 tons of organic material** from the Carlton Innovation School.

Waste Reduction: Waste management solid waste pick ups have **dropped by a third**, collected 2x/week instead of 3x/week

**Custodian is no longer using time to take the trash** out to the dumpster multiple times from the lunch room each day. Less plastic bags are also being used.

School Committee: Janelle is attending an upcoming meeting to inform on progress

Plan:

Roll out Phase 1 in the rest of the City Schools, kitchen staff and Janelle will meet to plan for each school kitchen system and set up. Janelle will meet with kitchen staff at each school to set up plan. Phase 2 process, in September, will need to happen at each school roll out. Volunteer “guides” will be needed throughout the Phase 2 process. Peer to Peer instruction is a consideration but cannot cut into student’s eating time.

Zero Waste Day (Thursday 3/22- Sunday 3/24)

First ever Event: Information is posted on the events page on [greensalem.com](https://greensalem.com)

This year, it’s being hosted by SSU, City of Salem Engineering Dept., & Sustainability & Resiliency

- Friday events:
  - Free Business Waste Audits: “Downtown Drawdown” - assessment & guidance on reduction
  - SSU will have a public Zero Waste Swap: clothes, books, office supplies, Dorm items
  - Clothing Swap at a public schools -they can invite organizations to join them, if they don’t want to host a swap they can do something else like showing a movie to be a part of events- a couple schools have signed on for events already.
- Saturday events: BookSwap, E-Waste, Free Document shredding at Horace Man school (new)
  - Document shredding has a fee \$200/hr, total: \$800 & a fast moving event
- Sunday: Beautification Committee is hosting a clean up at Gallows Hill

Public Education / Growing our Audience

How can we reach the people we aren’t already reaching? Who are they?

Neighborhood Associations - we could request to be put on their guest list and get into the neighborhoods - ask about how to reach the residents directly or through the NAs

Janelle presented at the Neighborhood Improvement Advisory Council about the City’s curbside recycling program, reuse/recycle events, and other initiatives to reduce solid waste.

Current Publicity:

- Ward Counselors (7)- do they send out newsletters? Do they hold Meetings?
  - Ward 2, 3, 5, 6, & Alice at large have newsletters (Catherine asking about Ward 1)
- City Hall Press Releases- residents have to sign up for them
- Salem News - gets City Hall Press Releases automatically
- Salem Patch: also gets press releases & shares our events, but no clue about their reach
- Facebook & Instagram posts events - have to be on Facebook/Instagram
- Recycling & Trash Calendar mailed out to water bill receivers only - Janelle working to change this so it goes to all residents, perhaps via voter lists or City Census
- Mayor’s Welcome Kit mailer-
- Monthly Newsletter

Target audience may be renters - they’re about 49% of Salem residents (see data below)

ACTION: Janelle checking to see if this goes to renters and if so, how do they find them? Salem Census? RMV/Excise taxes?

### **Draft Agreements Discussion**

Committee members received the draft document

Entire committee to consider edits and send to Jen via email who will add them to the document under appropriate headings

This is expected to be a multi-month process

Mid February Jen will re-send the draft document with suggestions for discussion at the March meeting

**SAFE SATV event- Feb 28th, 7pm**, Janelle and Joel talking about Salem's recycling initiatives.

Live audience, free, 30 seats, Derby St, Lulu's bakery building on left side

**MRF Tour:** Feb 7th WM Billerica Single Stream MRF

10 attendees

**Nip Ban - Licensing Board Meeting** on Zoom & in person

Janelle is speaking as Waste Reduction Coordinator, Chief of Police & Health Inspector have been invited as well - Committee members are encouraged to send comments to their representatives and attend the meeting as they can

**Film Plastic update-** Jen

3 bin locations now: CLC, Library and City Hall Plaza

Jen sent her personal announcement to friends and family & shared it with Janelle

Film bins have been very full so far, announcement went out in January Newsletter

Large bags are already being stored, Janelle will reach out to stores to schedule a time to bring the bags

### **February Newsletter**

Bookswap, Black Earth Contaminants, Reading, listening to, upcoming events, February trash calendar

Salem was highlighted in ToughStuff Recycling contractor's website

Possible thrift shop updates in future newsletters

### **Next Agenda Items**

Minutes approval

Draft Agreements

Nip Bottle Update

Repair Cafe report

Zero Waste Report

Mayor Welcome Kit to renters report

**Addendum: Salem Resident Data, US Census Bureau 2022**

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/salemcitymassachusetts/HSD410222>

Families & Living Arrangements

Population	44,700+	
Households	19,890	
Owner Occupied	51%	
Persons per household	2.17	
Living in same house 1 years ago	89.6%	Stable population
Language spoken other than English	21.6%	
Households with Broadband internet	90%	