

Minutes SalemRecycles Meeting held Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA

Present: Erin Huggard, Julie Rose, Tony Keck, Nancy Gilberg (by phone), Flora Tonthat  
Beth Melillo, Geri Yuhas, Carol Hautau, John Roberts, and Melynn Nuite (minute recorder)

Absent: Liz Vago, Lynn Murray, Penny Neal, Susan Yochelson

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Beth Melillo

New Business:

1. Minutes from September 6, 2016 had been previously distributed for review, edits made. Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
2. Debrief of September 17, 2016 Book Drop and Swap. There were 631 attendees to this event – another successful event. Julie sent around the comments that were given about the event especially regarding location of the event. Presently there is no alternative location to hold our Book Drop and Swap. So this even will continue to be held at the Senior Center at 5 Broad Street.
3. Debrief of September 24, 2016 E-Waste and Hazardous Waste Recycle. Estimated that there were 225 vehicles / attendees for this event. The majority of vehicles dropped off e-waste recycling – there was so much e-waste recycling that another truck had be brought to collect all that e-waste. Hazardous waste recycling estimated to have double and maybe tripled.

There were a number of concerns / comments around this event:

- a. The vehicle line was long and once your vehicle was in queue you could not get out of the line
- b. The wait time was long (about an hour) to complete/make drop-off
- c. IDs were NOT checked/verified
- d. Batteries and tire collections were not collected
- e. Propane tank collection station went smoothly

The Board of Health Director, Larry Ramdin, is the primary organizer of and runs this event the day of. Suggestions from our committee include:

- a. Review the negative comments made on Facebook to improve this event
- b. Propose to the Board of Health that we participate in the event planning meetings.
- c. SalemRecycles increase its presence at these events and create volunteer opportunities at these events
4. Carol Hautau, Susan Yochelson, and Liz Vago viewed the documentary film, “The True Cost” about the textile industry and felt that this would not be a good film for SalemRecycles to sponsor for the Cinema Salem’s Sunday Mornings film project.

New Business:

1. November 19, 2016 Textile Recycling Event to be held at Riley Plaza from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. rain or shine. (See flier attached). Goodwill will be our collector for this event. The volunteer sign up list still has room for additional volunteers – especially in the afternoon. Please contact Julie Rose for volunteer time. The sign up list for distribution of fliers was also handed around for sign up. Julie did note that if fliers were posted in October, then to recheck as many

shopkeepers regularly do mass cleaning / removing of posted signs. Reminder that this is the last drive that will accept stuffed animals. Nancy Gilberg and Erin Huggard have been doing regular Facebook postings about this event.

2. Plastic Bag update. Carol Hautau and Flora Tonthat attended the Oct. 4, 2016 City Council meeting – the only topic was this issue. To date there are many unknowns surrounding this issue should this proposed ordinance be passed. Julie Rose informed us that when this committee takes a position on this issue, the Mayor's office will support it. Of note styrofoam is NOT being considered in this proposed ordinance – only plastic (single use) bags. This committee wants to get the wording of the original proposed ordinance and the now current wording of the proposed ordinance for review to make our position. Decision made to table this issue presently.

#### Sub-Committee Updates:

##### General:

1. Butt Bin recycling. Meeting with Nick Dailey-who now empties the bins to be booked. From the final Farmer's Market event we did get a few comments and a request to change the placement of a butt bin. Julie Rose has the information and will get butt bin relocated.
2. Public recycling. New recycle bins are "installed". DPW received a \$9.00 check for recycled paper from NSRF at 53 Jefferson Avenue.

##### Community Outreach:

1. Farmers Market. The yard waste stickers were very popular as many folks had gotten the reverse 911 call from the city regarding yard waste pick-up schedule. Butt Bins addressed above. General consensus was that our having a table at the Farmers Market is good although our location changed and sometimes was not very good. Question was raised about having a composting bin at the Farmers Market as Black Earth Compost does commercial pickups in Salem on Fridays. This idea was table and will be addressed prior to 2017 Farmers Market season.

##### Correspondence:

1. Monthly Facebook. Nancy Gilberg has done great work with our Facebook page. The page has 1,450 Likes. The top three posts this past month were - 1. "France bans plastic plates and cutlery" a Washington Post article with 45 likes and loves; 2. Salem's plastic bag ban proposed ordinance, as Salemnews.com article with 24 likes and loves; 3. E-waste Day event posting with 34 likes. Nancy is willing to help the committee members spread the Facebook page. If you have questions about how to share and get likes speak with Nancy. She'll be happy to share her Facebook knowledge to keep Salem green.
2. Short Videos: Connor Reardon is looking for short videos regarding recycling in and around Salem. If you have anything or would like to be in a video please contact Julie and she will forward to Connor.
3. Constant contact newsletters – Susan Yochelson absent not report given
4. GreenSalem website. No update / report given.
5. Periodic Blog. Our blog is done quarterly, currently by Beth Melillo, which is posted on GreenSalem website. Beth hopes to interview Recycle That, located in Wilmington, MA, for her next blog posting. Next blog posting is expected soon.

Mandatory Recycling: Julie Rose gave an update regarding proposed mandatory recycling and the number of haulers (trash, recycle transport companies e.g., WM, JR, Northside Carting, etc.)

potentially impacted if mandatory recycling is passes in Salem. There is soon to be a meeting with the haulers regarding mandatory recycling. Julie noted that continued education about mandatory recycling plans be addressed to our city counselors and to Salem landlords. More information from Julie about this at our November meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for November 1, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melynn Nuite  
Committee member  
Ward 6 resident