

Minutes SalemRecycles Meeting held Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. 3rd Floor at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA

Present: Tony Keck, Nancy Gilberg, Flora Tonthat, Susan Yochelson, Beth Melillo, Geri Yuhas, Carol Hautau, Liz Vago, Lynn Murray, Melynn Nuite

Visitors: Salem Academy Charter School – service learning visit - Robert Cominski, James Guzman

Absent: Julie Rose, Penny Neal, Erin Huggard, John Roberts, Eva Mossberg

New Business:

1. Minutes from October 11, 2016 distributed via email yesterday. Minutes were approved.
2. Tuesday, Dec 6 Christmas party at Flora's house. Tony won't be able to make it. Some members of the committee wondered if we could invite Karen Murray Cady & David Holland. Though with no spouse or family. Yankee swap rules explained. Flora will send out parking map for driveway.

Old Business:

1. Beth Sign up people for minute taking in 2017
2. November 19, 2016 Textile Recycling Event to be held at Riley Plaza from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. rain or shine. We passed around work day sign-up sheet again. We would like to sign up people for newsletter and potentially handout compost sign-up info. if okay to do so.

Susan: discussion on whether it's better to compost or to recycle paper. It seems that composting uses less energy than recycling and adds the brown matter to the mix. Best to put small paper like receipts & note pad paper in compost. Best to put flimsy paper like tissues, tissue paper, TP roller cores in compost

Last year that stuff animals will be accepted; comforters are ok; pillows only if clean and wrapped.

Melynn: Can we ask folks "What is your number 1 recycling challenge?" at the event? How about on Facebook? Consensus was that we would then have to be prepared to answer it in detail. Since no one has the time to do that now, we tabled it.

Traffic detail: Rich will bring signage? Signs with Arrows helps.

3. Plastic Bag update. Carol Hautau and Susan Yochelson attended and spoke at the Oct. 27, 2016 City Council meeting. Susan: The Talking Trash High School kids did great. They talked to all the elected officials. Tori was the lead on this. There will be a one year time frame for roll out. Ordinance won't be enforced until Jan 2018. We will need to provide lots of education. Hope we can get a grant or some money to buy reusable bags to pass out at some of our events.

Council unanimously voted for it, but It still needs a 2nd reading (pro forma).
On FB- this post reached 3099 people.

Visitor's from what Salem Academy Charter School attended our meeting tonight as part of a school requirement. We gave them 3 flyers to post and asked them to like us on FB. Susan recapped plastic bag for visitors. Talking Trash Teens and plastic bag ordinance. Market Basket tan bags are 2.5mil thin, even though it says it can be used 125 times. Need to be thicker.

Sub-Committee Updates:

General:

1. Butt Bin recycling. Geri: Nick Dailey-who now empties the bins says the bigger bins are working better, but old locks are getting oxidized. Old bins that have not been emptied for a while have compacted into one hard lump as gets wet. He'd like to get rid of old ones- recycle the metal. Communication can be better with John Tomas. He made a list of broken ones. Geri was in Portland-they have same problems with their butt bins. Portland, ME has more trash cans and seem to have less trash.
Tony: saw ones broken or fallen. Tourists like them. Susan: If we see them broken or fallen, we should and report the broken or fallen butt binson See Click Fix. She had missed an opportunity and it was gone when she went back.

2. Public recycling. New recycle bins have been "installed". Penny created 4 potential designs and will send around for comments.

3. Community Outreach:

Nancy: Food Truck festival Bring your own container or flatware? Food safety?

Are compostable utensils really compostable? People not into doing this.

Can we work with organizers? Who are the organizers? Talk to Ellen Talkowsky

Tony: road races have some use requirements on plastic/paper cups,

Lynn: Look at it as a whole. Understand the process that applies to everybody. They probably have to go thru Licensing & permitting, Board of Health, & parks & rec. What are the requirements and guidance? Are there any guidance offered?

Ex. Water jugs on Common- BOH gave Lynn guidelines.

FilmFest: We need to follow up with Film Fest Sponsorship for an environmental relevant film.

Correspondence:

1. Guidelines for emails & all communications.

Flora got a bum steer from a Staple's employee, that they take old TV's for free, turned out not to be true. Good thing Julie and Nancy checked it out. TV's can be recycled in Beverly - Pinto recycling \$10-\$25. Best Buy does take TVs in for recycling but has increased cost to \$25.

1. Monthly Facebook: Nancy Gilberg. The page has 1,453 Likes. Textile recycling. Most popular this month: Salem's plastic bag ordinance. One FB post says just don't use them [plastic bags].
Susan: it's the single-use bags that is the issue.
2. Short Videos: Connor Reardon is looking for short videos regarding recycling in and around Salem. No one had anything.
3. Constant contact newsletters - Susan Yochelson Oct. issue didn't go out. The site is not letting her log in. We'll (who is we?) try to log in to see.
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 will interview Recycle That, located in Wilmington, MA, for her next blog posting. Next blog posting is expected soon.
6. Batteries: only alkaline can be safely tossed!! Hearing aid batteries, lithium & rechargeables need to be recycled. Nancy will gather info. R&J coin store will take back button batteries.

Mandatory Recycling:. More information from Julie about this at our next meeting.

General/Questions:

1. Susan: CFL bulbs. If broken, do we still recycle ballast. No one knows.
2. Jan 2nd is a holiday since Jan 1 is on a Sunday. Next meeting scheduled for Jan 3 2017 or the following Tuesday? Please NOTE: We will meet January 3 and January 31; no meeting in February.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Tonthat