



**Minutes SalemRecycles Committee Meeting held
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
at 6:30 p.m. 3rd Floor (medium conference Room) at 120
Washington Street, Salem, MA**

Present: Julie Rose, Liz Vago, Nancy Gilberg, Geri Yuhas (vice-chair), Erin Huggard, Carol Hautau, Tony Keck, and Melynn Nuite (committee clerk), John Roberts, Nancy Gilberg

Absent: Liz Vago, Susan Yochelson, Lynn Murray

Meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. by Flora Tonthat

Approval January 2, 2018 Minutes – Approved.

Old Business

1. 2018 Repair Café dates

Discussion regarding the number of Repair Cafés to host this year. Given the number of other events that SalemRecycles hosts throughout the year, it was decided that in 2018 there will be two Repair Café events – April 7 and November 3, 2018. Both event will take place at The Bridge @ 211. As always tinkers are needed. If you are or know of them please let Julie know so they can be added to the event volunteer list.

2. Bag It-March 14, Cabot Theatre in Beverly, MA

This event has been promoted to the Salem Council on Aging with Salem Sound Coastwatch. It is anticipated that the Council on Aging will provide transportation to the Cabot Theater so seniors can attend this movie. (NOTE: 14 Seniors had planned to attend, however since the City was closed that day there was no transportation).

3. March Book Swap

This always well received and successful event is scheduled for March 17, 2018 and again will be held at the Council on Aging. Julie needs volunteers to sign-up for 1st and 2nd shifts. John and Tony will work the driveway/parking. Recycle That will be the vendor to take away all materials at the end of the event.

It was noted that the Council on Aging will also be having a Senior Bus trip that day so, extra attention will need to be given to traffic flow in the area. (NOTE: subsequently the COA arranged to pick up folks at their homes to reduce the traffic impact)

New Business

1. Resignations

Julie Rose announced that she had received resignations from

- a. Beth Melillo. Beth has been a committee member for over 5 years and had served as Committee Chair. She will continue to be a volunteer for events that SalemRecycles hosts, but declined becoming an emeritus member.

- b. Flora Tonthat. Flora resigned effective immediately her committee membership and current committee chair position. Flora has been a very active committee member for 4 years and was most active to get the reusable bag initiative underway. Since Flora had not been on the committee for 5 years, she was not eligible for emeritus status.
- 2. Position has posted for David Holland's former position. The position-now full time and titled Waste Reduction Coordinator - was posted for three weeks on Salem.com (came down on March 8, 2018). The position was also advertised through Mass Municipal Association (MMA).
- 3. Household Hazardous Waste Day events
 - a. Beverly on March 24, 2018 (the contractor pulled out of the originally advertised April 21 date)
 - b. Salem on September 15, 2018
- 4. SalemRecycles volunteer appreciation gathering will be held on June 13, 2018 at Winter Island. This is a fun event to recognize our many volunteers for without them, Salem's recycling efforts would not be the great success that they are.

Subcommittees- updates

- 1. Bin Recycling-adoption program
There are 15 butt bins up for 'adoption'. If 12 could be adopted that would be a very good start to this program. Money is paid for cigarette butts that are recycled.
- 2. Trash Reduction
This is to be addressed in our committee action plan. We also want to get the an e-newsletter out to address this as well. Julie spoke briefly about the costs associated with our trash. It is billed by tonnage. Trashed clothing is heavy.
- 3. Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance
The ordinance is in the city solicitor's office for review. It would be the goal to have the Board of Health be the regulator of the ordinance. If it is established by June 13, 2018 there is \$6,000 that can be obtained through the Mass DEP RDP grant. This funding is needed to fund the now full time Waste Reduction Coordinator.
- 4. GreenSalem.com
This website needs to be updated ASAP or the site needs to be taken off-line at least temporarily. The website is a WordPress application. Flora and Beth were our GreenSalem.com keepers.
- 5. Salem's Trash and Recycle 2018 large tri-fold were mailed to residents the 1st week of January. This as a \$15K expense. If you have not received this information then please contact the Salem Post Office. A further discussion on this matter may be held in April when Mayor Driscoll meets with us.
- 6. Drinking straws
We were informed that paper straws are 5x more expensive than plastic drinking straws. We would like to promote 'no straw please' at our many restaurant and dining establishments. How best and most effectively can we promote "No straw please."? Straws while recyclable, do cause sever entanglement and binding of sorting machinery.

Community outreach

- 1. Plastic Bag Ban (Reusable Bag Initiative) communication
 - a. It is confirmed that the 10 cent reusable bags that are in Market Basket grocery stores do comply with the reusable bag initiative.
 - b. There have been six letters of non-compliance sent out

- c. Ideas to get the word out are for a mini/short video. Penny would be agreeable to help with this.

Correspondence

1. E-mail reminders – no update
2. Monthly Facebook
In January there were 104 shares and 101 likes to our Facebook post about being able to add an extra bag to your recycle bin pick-up.
3. Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution
We need to get one posted. Susan Yochelson has said she will get one created.
4. Periodic Blog – no update

Strategic Plan update

Tony Keck, incorporated the committee's comments and suggestions from our January 2018 gathering. Tonight the committee reviewed and fine-tuned edits to our Strategic Plan. The committee voted on and passed the 2018 SalemRecycles Officer Guidelines. Julie will finalize the Strategic Plan and file in the new Policy and Procedures for SR booklet.

Other Business

General Committee Announcements

1. There will be a SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment) meeting tomorrow. The topic will be sustainable choices.

Meeting adjourned at ~8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting will March at 6:30 p.m. at 120 Washington Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Melynn Nuite
SalemRecycles Committee Clerk
Ward 6 resident