



**Minutes SalemRecycles Committee Meeting held  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018  
at 6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (Small Conference Room) at 120  
Washington Street, Salem, MA**

Present: Geri Yuhas(chair), Erin Huggard, Carol Hautau, Tony Keck, Melynn Nuite (committee clerk), and Susan Yochelson

Absent: Julie Rose, Lynn Murray, John Roberts, Nancy Gilberg, Liz Vago

Guests: Shelby Hypes (Ward 2), Victoria (Tori) Kako (Ward 7)

Meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m. by Geri Yuhas

Introduction and welcome to Shelby Hypes and Tori Kako. Shelby has website skills and would be willing to help our committee with SalemRecycles' web page(s), GreenSalem.com, as she has WordPress skills. Tori is a Salem State University student and was a key player in the Reusable Bag initiative through Salem Sound Coastwatch.

**Approval February 6, 2018 Minutes** – Minutes not prepared for review.

**Old Business**

**1. Book Swap-March 17**

Book will be held at the Senior Center. On Friday, March 16 ONLY drop off of materials will be allowed. No swapping/'shopping' will occur on Friday night. Susan Yochelson will bring fabric bags and Erin Huggard will bring paper bags. Julie has the schedule of volunteers prepared. This is an event that runs smoothly so no issues anticipated.

**2. Repair Cafe-April 7**

The Repair Café is April 7, 2018 from 9-12 for repairs. Volunteers are expected to be present from 8-12:30 for set-up and break-down). Members present reviewed and made additions/corrections to the volunteer list. Again repairs will be prioritized to Salem residents. If you know of folks that wish to be tinkers then have them contact Julie Rose.

**New Business**

**1. "No straw please"**

Discussion around straw use. Discussion ensued about our committee's time availability to pursue as a full-on initiative. There are those that have medical conditions in which straw use is necessary/helpful. The committee could promote that restaurants promote that straws not automatically be given, but rather wait to be asked for a straw. We can encourage decreased straw use on social media and also be examples of "no straw please" when we go out. Susan will report back to SR regarding SSCW efforts on this topic.

**2. SalemRecycles' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On the North Shore, Salem has been a leader in Recycling and other communities have followed our lead. Discussion about getting publicity of this anniversary. Maybe Dustin Luca, local Salem reporter, could write an article. It was also suggested we check with Sharon Kashida of Mass DEP to see if SalemRecycles can get recognition.

**3. Salem Film Festival – March 22-29, 2018**

SalemRecycles will be sponsoring a film this year. Lynn Murray will select the film to be sponsored. There was some discussion about how SalemRecycles could have presence during the festival. It is too late for this year but we could consider for next year.

**4. Salem Science Night – April 5, 2018**

We have participated in this program in past years. Valerie Gould of Salem Public Schools has invited us to attend. The will run from 6-7:30 p.m. Carol Hautau and Melynn Nuite have tentatively agreed to attend this program at the Bowditch School, set up at 5pm, event 5:30-7:30. We will share a table with Black Earth Compost, and provide some seeds to plant in compost. We will be bringing our bean bag game to the event.

**Subcommittees- updates**

**1. Butt Bin Recycling-adoption program**

Butt Bins are ready to be 'adopted'. Contact Julie for contract. Tori Kako suggested that Salem State may be able to assist with this program as a community service project. The committee reminded that the butts need to be dry before shipping them and that everyone is responsible for their own boxes-Julie has the labels for shipping.

**2. Trash Reduction**

We have not make much progress regarding efforts to reduce clothing trash. Tori Kato, believed that Salem State could be active in such at initiative at the end of each semester. It was re-iterated that Black Earth Compost will collect clean, dry clothing and deliver it to appropriate donation locations.

Discussion ensued about China demanding cleaner recycles materials; less contamination. Will single stream recycling be more affected by this change in the recycle markets? Where do we, as a committee, educate about, "If in doubt, throw it out." (instead of recycle).

**3. Bookmark**

Erin Huggard is working on designing bookmarks again to have at the Book Swap, but issues with re-sizing of our logo. Shelby can help with this. It was asked if Salem Public Library and the Athenaeum would accept and distribute bookmarks. It was affirmed that the libraries have done this in the past.

**4. Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance**

Currently condos and commercial properties are not mandated to recycle. Current ordinance is being discussed with Salem Legal and Board of Health.

## **5. GreenSalem.com**

**Updating** – Shelby has WordPress experience and potentially could head up this effort as both Beth Melillo and Flora Tonthat are no longer committee members. Lynn Murray willing to help with updating GreenSalem.com. We need a couple more members to join this effort. (NOTE: both Carol and Nancy are attending our meeting Monday April 2 to discuss this).

## **Community outreach**

### **1. Plastic bag ban communication**

Re-usable bag initiative is happening. Family Dollar store continues to use plastic bags and they have been reported to the City twice. Next steps to bring them into compliance? (NOTE: the Community Impact Unit spoke with them and followed up, they seem to be using only paper bags now) It has been noted that some restaurants have been using plastic bags for take-out and to bag boxed left-overs. We need to check that the information stickers are visible and that stickers are in both Spanish and English. These businesses should be reported to Julie and the Licensing Board.

## **Correspondence**

### **1. E-mail reminders – no**

### **2. Monthly Facebook – no update provided.**

### **3. Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution**

Susan Yochelson will be creating an e-newsletter.

### **4. Periodic Blog**

As Beth Melillo, has left the committee who will do a blog post?

## **Strategic Plan**

**Action Plan update** – The plan was reviewed during our February meeting and Julie Rose has the documents.

## **Other Business**

### **General Committee Announcements**

On 3-21-2018 there will be a presentation at the Abbott Library (Marblehead, MA) at 7:00 p.m. about Ancient Geology. The program will be presented by Salem Sound Coastwatch.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting will be April 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at 120 Washington Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Melynn Nuite  
SalemRecycles Committee Clerk  
Ward 6 resident