

Salem Recycles Committee

Tuesday August 6, 2019

Attendees: Melynn Nuite, Micaela Guglielmi, Geri Yuhas, Beth Gillett, Kristin Woodruff, Tony Keck, Liz Vago, Susan Yochelson, Carol Hautau, Nancy Gilberg, Julie Rose, Erin Huggard

Absent: Shelby Hypes, Lynn Murray, John Roberts

Guest: William Legault

Committee meeting was called to order and minutes from June 4, 2019 were unanimously approved.

New Business

- 2020 Event dates
 - Repair cafe date was changed to one week earlier (3.28.2020). Tony confirmed the Bridge is able to accommodate date change.
 - Swap and Drop - Discussion rt pros/cons of having on the Common vs. the Community Life Center. Delay committee vote until September.
- 2019 Partners list - this will be an internal communication to support creating the yearly calendar and giving officers a contact/point person. Committee agreed to continue creating list offline. Initial list as follows:
 1. SAFE - pumpkin compost
 2. Main Streets - zero waste ice cream
 3. Salem school system - science fairs
 4. Salem food pantry - composting events
 5. Mass in Motion
 6. Salem Sound Coast Watch - straw reduction
 7. Black Earth Compost
- September 14 Book Swap - Micaela sent email to volunteer list. Julie recommended having 20 volunteers per shift. Initiating captains (4) was discussed for this event - 1 at intake table, 2 outside, 1 circulating the tables. Discussion focused on creating a new revised acceptable list > Micaela to contact More than Words for a list of acceptable items. Micaela will confirm with Waste Management if we can recycle hardcover books as is, or if the cover must be torn off. Melynn, Liz, Nancy, Susan, and Micaela to coordinate for press.
- Team captains - Discussion rt new aprons to be ordered and whether they should be a different color than the current green volunteer aprons. Cost for 12 aprons is approx \$200. A motion was made and approved to have different colored aprons.
- Scooper Bowl - need to have volunteers standing a compost to encourage attendees to compost rather than throwing away. This is a zero-waste event, everything is compostable. Two shifts for volunteers 545-645p and 645-745p. Volunteers are Melynn, Geri, Carol.

Task Force- Updates

- Butt Bin Recycling-adoption program/sticker replacement
 - Ray replaced stickers on 5 boxes, plus one more this week (near Starbucks). Discussion rt adding an additional box near the mall entrance and the Washington St median near Bank of America/post office.
- Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance

- Went into effect 1.1.19. The haulers pay \$100 annually. Currently there is no penalty for non-compliance by the apartment buildings. Discussion rt next steps: Board of Health will meet with the apartment complexes (approx 30 in the city) and the Recycle Works partner to create a working list of main items to recycle.
- Straw Reduction
 - More businesses seem to be limiting straws. Julie suggested creating a way to praise businesses moving in this direction. Vote to move this topic to a quarterly agenda item.
- School Recycling Grant
 - Patrice is looking for a new coordinator. Micaela to check in when school starts. The custodians are starting a weekly survey. Grant remainder to be used in 2019: \$11K for equipment, \$3500 for coordinator.
- Composting
 - Currently 6 Earth Machines left, 560 clients. Discussion rt promoting the drop off location at Mack park in the newsletter and adding composting information into the "Welcome, neighbor" letter sent to new Salem residents (to be posed to Dominick in the Mayor's office).
- Textiles
 - Always a topic in the newsletter. Currently the most valuable item to recycle. Discussion rt what is currently acceptable.
- Mattress Recycling
 - 1st step: information gathering rt companies that recycle mattresses and current practices by places with large mattress turnover. Volunteers to gather this info:
 - Liz - North Shore Medical Center
 - Carol - Salem State University
 - Micaela - mattress recycling company
 - Melynn - Hawthorne Hotel, Salem Waterfront Hotel, Salem Inn
- Food Truck Festival Composting (Saturday, Sept 28)
 - Black Earth has agreed to provide and pick up (same day) 8-12 large compost bins at a discounted rate of \$100. Will need approx 25 volunteers, 2 at each of the 4 stations. Discussion related to what will be allowed into compost (only food and napkins to limit contamination), whether any food trucks will be using other compostable items. Needs to be done: signage and promotion.

Community Outreach

- Waste Reduction Coordinator Update
 - Audit to be done this week and next.
 - Micaela has table at Salem Farmers Market Thursday Aug 15, Carol volunteered to join her. Tentative additional date: Thursday Sept 5.

Correspondence

- Social Media Update
- Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution
- Blog

Other Business

- Food for Thought Festival (Carol) - Saturday 9.21.19, Palmer Cove. Discussion rt with multiple events requiring volunteers in Sept, do we have bandwidth to participate. To be discussed at next meeting.