

Salem Recycles Committee

Tuesday September 3, 2019

Attendees: Shelby Hypes, Micaela Guglielmi, Geri Yuhas, Beth Gillett, Tony Keck, Susan Yochelson, Carol Hautau, Nancy Gilberg, Erin Huggard

Absent: John Roberts, Melynn Nuite, Kristin Woodruff, Liz Vago,

Guest: William Legault

Committee meeting was called to order by Beth Gillett and minutes from August 6, 2019 were unanimously approved, besides a typo which will be fixed.

New Business

- Bill Legault Announcement – He is in charge of the Keep Salem Clean and Fireballs of Salem Facebook Pages. He wanted to inform us of two items
 - He is planning on starting another committee through the nationwide “Keep America Beautiful” Campaign called Keep Salem Beautiful. He is hoping the Beautification Committee and Salem Recycles and the new group can all work together.
 - He works with Salem Access TV and if we are interested we could live stream one of our meetings on TV. His announcement was strictly to let us know what’s going on, not to solicit our approval or a commitment of any kind.
- 2020 Event dates – The Committee voted to keep our Swap N Drop event at the Common, and not permanently move it to the CLC. (We will move to the CLC in case of rain, however.)
- September 14 Book Swap – we are a little low on volunteers but working to get a few more. Team captains were decided: Tony will manage outside traffic, Geri will manage the intake table and Beth will circulate around the tables. Bookmark was reviewed and approved. Shelby will have printed prior to Book Swap.
- September 21 Food for Thought Festival – We will arrive around 9:30; event is from 10:00-2:00 at Palmer Cove Park with a lunch at the Espacio at 1. If it rains, the event will be cancelled. We would promote composting, clean recycling and have our bean bag toss game. Carol is committed, we need one more person to commit as Micaela is unsure if she can make it.

Old Business

- Scooper Bowl – the event went well and the Facebook post with the photo of Carol was very popular.

Task Force- Updates

- Sept 28 Food Truck Festival Composting – Seven volunteers are committed outside of the committee; we are hoping for many more and trying to recruit. We will get Black Earth’s business cards to hand out/promote. Composting will stop once all bins are full.
- Butt Bin Recycling-adoption program/sticker replacement – Micaela will talk to Ray about replacing stickers and a new location at Washington St median near Bank of America/post office.
- Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance – Micaela, Dave Greenbaum and Recycle Work Partners are having a conference call Thursday the 5th to discuss progress and next steps.
- School Recycling Grant – Micaela checked in with Ryan Monks, there is still no new coordinator to replace Patrice. Micaela and Ryan will meet this month.

- Composting – 578 signed up for Black Earth's curbside pick up service but only 450 actually participate. The composting flyer is now in the new resident's packet. In addition to curbside pick-up, there are compost bins at Mack Park. There has been some confusion with these bins and those of the Salem Community Garden that are brought up to the house for emptying every Wednesday. Micaela will wait till the first snow to determine if we will keep the Mack Park drop off bins.
- Textiles – still an important thing to promote and discuss via social media, newsletter, etc. Could move this topic to quarterly discussion.
- Mattress Recycling
 - Liz called North Shore Medical Center about mattresses and hasn't heard back.
 - Micaela left two voicemails for UTEC – a mattress recycling company out of Lowell and has not heard back.
 - Carol spoke with Tara Gallagher from SSU and was told they use UTEC to recycle all their mattresses – about 125 a year. Carol will ask Tara who her contact at UTEC is.
 - Melynn spoke with Hawthorne Hotel. Gardner Mattress Corp (Salem) is Hawthorne's supplier. When the hotel gets new mattresses, Gardner takes them away. She followed up with Gardner Mattress And spoke with person who had some knowledge. Gardner does not recycle, as it is not mandatory. He suggested she reach out to Kirk, which she will. Maybe Kirk could come speak to us at a future SR meeting.
 - Mattress recycling is labor intensive. Apparently, there are folks/companies that go to disposal places and collect mattresses and then recycle them. The entire process is not known. There is legislation (MA, other states and Federally) in the works that will make mattress recycling mandatory if passed. CT and NJ may have mandatory recycling of mattresses

Community Outreach

- Waste Reduction Coordinator Update – Audit results are running late because they messed up the sampling during Green Week and had to go back to take more samples. This will actually end up making the audit more representative of the City. Micaela will send results when she gets them and we can discuss next month. Otherwise bin checking is going well. Micaela sees improvements, but still sees plastic bags and films daily, particularly Amazon packaging.

Correspondence

- Social Media Update – 2,386 likes and 2,552 follows on Facebook. Popular posts include the NPR Plastics – what's recyclable, what's trash article with a reach of 934 people, also the book lovers humor post to promote the book swap. 468 followers on Instagram.
- Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution - Susan is working on it, hoping for some help and hoping to have it up this week.
- Blog – Tony will write a blog post about plastic films/packaging for the holidays. We could maybe promote this on SATV.

Other Business

General Committee Announcements - Susan had an idea of reaching out to the Chamber about talking to tourist's groups and promoting the butt bins and other ways to keep Salem clean when new people visit in October.