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| **Kimberley Driscoll**  **Mayor** | City of Salem, Massachusetts |

 SalemRecycles Minutes

February 1, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Carol Hautau, Shannon Chretien, Cameron Fullerton, Geri Yuhas, Bonnie Bain, Nancy Gilberg

Guests: Andy Varela (Councilor Ward 7), Jen B, Bruce Cohen, Mari, Kate Kennedy

January 2022 minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**Old Business**

* Styrofoam Event - Saturday January 8th - Community Life Center, Salem - 9a-1p - Micaela reported event went well. Approximately 150 cars participated, mostly Salem. Beverly hosted a drop off site at their library for several days and also one at their City Hall prior to the event to collect Styrofoam. Truck was ¾ filled at the end of the event. Micaela reviewed notes provided by volunteers. Geri noted the truck was very big and that it would be helpful to have more volunteers at the next event. Shannon inquired if volunteers need to be SalemRecycles committee members, Micaela confirmed they do not. Micaela inquired if it would be worth having a second event per year. Geri suggested warmer weather months would be preferred. Geri suggested a second date could be hosted by Beverly. Nancy inquired about the cost of the event; Micaela answered approximately $1,000 per community. Kristin inquired if there might be similar participation if participants need to pay/donate to participate. Shannon inquired if there is a central location for collection in the City. Cameron suggested education related to how Styrofoam is compacted may be a way to promote collection. Geri stated the company invited the committee to tour the facility that compacts the Styrofoam into “logs”. Carol inquired of the location of the company; Micaela stated in Charlestown. Kristin inquired if the company has a video available for the committee to post on social media. Councillor Varela volunteered to drive donations to the facility with his box truck, approximately once per month. He also said that he has long-range plans to create a local composting service. Carol inquired if the company accepts drop off donations. Nancy inquired if the tradeoff of driving to the location is worth the cost. Micaela stated she will connect with Councillor Varela to discuss the possibility of driving donations to Charlestown.

**New Business**

* Repair Cafe - Saturday March 12, 9-12 - Micaela stated she plans to send email to potential “tinkerers” to gauge interest. Carol inquired if the two previous volunteers who expressed interest in providing weekly repairs have coordinated with the Community Life Center to set up additional repair events, Micaela stated she is unsure. Micaela confirmed continuation of appointments only and she will assess the registration process to streamline.
* Book Swap - Saturday April 2 - Kristin suggested still too early to confirm this date. Carol inquired of ways to adjust how the event is run to be safer. Geri suggested waiting until warmer weather to hold the event outside. Kristin wondered if we would require sign-ups. Geri suggested people tend to stay longer, suggested only allowing a certain number of people in the building at a time and people will wait in a line. Micaela suggested any more discussion to be tabled for next month.
* Membership Recruitment - Micaela stated there is a need for new members, welcomed guests to the meeting. Cameron volunteered to discuss with potential new members from the school system. Micaela stated the goal is to have 14 volunteers on the committee, stated a quorum is half of the committee plus one. Nancy made requests for skills of new committee members including graphic design and video editing. Bonnie inquired about the potential partnership with Salem Sound Coast Watch interns. Micaela stated interns have partnered in the past, stated there is potential for additional partnerships. Councillor Varela offered to connect the committee with Margaret Tran for potential partnerships. Carol asked Cameron who to start a conversation with the school system to reduce the use of Styrofoam trays/plates. Cameron answered that it is generally a cost issue. Nancy suggested partnering with the Sustainability Committee for this topic. Councillor Varela stated he proposed an ordinance that would ban Styrofoam in businesses in the City of Salem and require the use of compostable options He stated there are plans in place to work with the Salem public school system to remove Styrofoam. Carol inquired about the cost trade off of returning to trays that need to be washed. Councillor Varela stated it is not currently being discussed related to the labor cost. Bruce inquired if the school system composts. Councillor Varela stated this is a topic in discussion and plans to encourage the City to move towards for both waste reduction and as a revenue stream for the city. Bruce inquired about the first step towards this. Councillor stated the first step would be discussing with the owners of Black Earth to discuss the cost. Cameron noted there are challenges of storage of compost. Bonnie inquired about “buy back” programs for plastic containers for the school system. Councillor Varela stated there are available programs and there is a plan to discuss. Shannon offered a contact person in a school that currently composts. Nancy also offered a contact name for a school that composts. Micaela suggested adding upcoming Styrofoam and composting ordinance to next month’s meeting.
* Committee Name Change - Carol explained the reason for a potential name change is to ensure we are also promoting additional “R’s” and not only recycling. Bruce suggested “sustainability committee”, Micaela explained there is already a committee with that name (focus on renewable energy). Kristin suggested the committee is clear on the intention of what we are trying to accomplish to ensure that the name reflects this intention. Nancy suggested keeping a name change simple. Geri suggested the “SalemRecycles” name is well recognized and suggested keeping the name until the committee is clear on what we are trying to accomplish. Jan and Shannon suggested there is a potential association with “Waste Reduction” with “Waste Management” (trash collection company).

**Task Force Updates**

* Green Salem A-Z Guide - Carol stated the task force has met and discussed changes to broad categories in the guide. Micaela offered to make changes when the task force is ready. Carol requested additional committee members join the task force as Liz has stepped down.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update - Micaela stated she will attend an upcoming meeting for Styrofoam and composting ordinance. The Public Health, Safety, and Environment meeting is 6pm on Wednesday. The chair of this committee is Councillor Prosniewski. Green Team Junk Removal reached out to the city to host a zero waste collection event. Items to be collected: electronics, household construction waste. National Grid would issue credits for dehumidifiers. The location would likely be the high school and held this summer. Micaela inquired if the committee would like to sponsor a film for the Film Festival this year. The cost is $300 and is publicity for the committee. The committee agreed to move forward with this. Carol inquired if the festival will be in person or hybrid, Micaela will confirm. Micaela has returned to bin checking, for a limited amount of time in the cold weather.

**Correspondence**

* Electronic newsletter - Bonnie stated she needs to step down as leading the newsletter content. Micaela stated she is able to write a first draft to have committee members review. Bruce offered to contribute. Jen inquired about general topics. Kristin suggested an article related to fixing broken bins and what to do if there is not a prompt response to requests. Nancy suggested a top 10 list from the Recycle Smart posts. Cameron and Jen suggested articles related to plastics / plastic bags, Nancy suggested plasticfilmrecycling.org. Bonnie suggested discussing with local hospitals to discuss recycling masks, Geri suggested this may be a bigger project than the committee is able to handle.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements
  + Beth Gillett has transitioned to emeritus status. Nancy stated a new apartment complex on Trader’s Way is using Republic for their trash and recycling.