

Salem Recycling Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2023

In Attendance: Jen Birenbach, Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau, Janelle Rolke (City Liaison), Geri Yuhas
Absent: Bonnie Bain

Mission Statement

The mission of SalemRecycles, a committee appointed by the Mayor, is to reduce trash tonnage in the City of Salem by increasing recycling, diverting reusable items, and motivating city stakeholders through education and information.

Old Business

Approve January 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Joel Dashnaw; Second the motion: Geri Yuhas

Committee voted to approve the minutes

New Business

Styrofoam Event re-cap, January 14, 2023

Full-Size Tractor Trailer, at full capacity, is about 71 giant bags of styrofoam

The truck ran out of room, but luckily this happened at the very end of the event, so Save That Stuff didn't have to turn anyone away. But we did reach capacity.

Each municipality's cost: \$620. This is less than last year (over \$1000) that was spent by Salem last year. Janelle will reach out to Danvers, Lynn and Beverly to see if they'd like to do it again. Beverly collected quite a bit in advance from both Beverly and Salem residents. Lynn wanted to collect early, but they weren't able to do that. It's as a valuable event, the committee could use an early drop-off location for use between events. Pre-collection material from Beverly Public Library was moved to the collection event by Beverly DPW.

Statistics

- 214 cars dropped off
- Beverly- 107
- Salem- 63
- Danvers- 30
- Lynn -3 - acknowledged low PR on their part
- Swampscott- 1
- Peabody- 2
- Hamilton- 2
- Ipswich- 1
- Topsfield- 2
- Gloucester- 2

How they heard about the event

- Facebook- 39
- Website- 24
- Salem News- 15
- Email - 9
- Word of Mouth- 5
- Instagram - 3
- Patch- 3
- NextDoor- 2
- Unknown- remainder

Concerns were raised about Styrofoam flying around as it was broken up to store in the bags. Some was seen entering a storm drain. How can this be prevented in the future? The committee considered using a cover for any drains and then vacuuming it up post event, or possibly a containment area. This concern will be kept in mind for the next event and this will be mitigated against in the future.

People from other communities- A discussion was had about how to manage people outside the paying communities. It was decided that they would not be turned away, as collecting as much Styrofoam was the goal. The committee will track the numbers and if there seems to be great interest from a particular community we can reach out to that municipality to see if they would like to formally participate in the Styrofoam collection event.

Salem Recycling Committee Minutes, 2/7/2023

Unit Cost: Joel evaluated cost per unit (large bag) of styrofoam collected - total cost is \$2,500/71 bags = \$35/bag. It's estimated a full truck would be approximately 100 cubic yards, so it would mean \$25/bag if the truck is full to capacity.

Another event in June: There is interest in the committee to continue this on a 6-month basis. Styrofoam is not that labor intensive, especially since we're splitting the labor with other towns, thus keeping the cost <\$1000 which is ideal.

Early drop-off location in Salem: There is interest on the Committee in having a place for residents to drop off clean Styrofoam, but there is no particular location at this time. Beverly's early drop off location was under the bottom of a stairwell at the library, unused space in the basement. Janelle thinks the least amount of negative impact would be the community life center during the few days before the collection event is held, she'll inquire about this.

On-going space for drop off in Salem: There is interest on the Committee, but a location could be hard to find. Spaces considered: Community Center, Annex, DPW. Janelle is considering these options and will ask about the options. It may be able to be treated like the TerraCycle bins in the Annex, but Styrofoam would require a lot more storage space.

Styrofoam Subcommittee could be helpful for long term solutions, like the City working with Grief on a Styrofoam packing machine. Committee members are considering this for the March meeting.

February Repair Café, TerraCycle Event - Sat, Feb 11th

Janelle's father-in-law (an engineer) is able to volunteer in the much-needed electrical volunteer slot. An additional knife sharpening machine was purchased and appointments are 15 minutes instead of 30 minutes as there is great interest in this service. Attendees will get appointment confirmations this week, along with requirements and expectations. There are new fixers this year as well. There are about 70 attendees. Requests are still coming in. Another sewing station opened this week so some spots are still available. Computer and phone repairs/diagnostics have a lot of free spots still available. Nancy sent out promotional information for technology repair. Nancy will continue promoting technology repair and we will open this service to all communities. Bike Repair: Habanero Bikes has reached out to provide bike repair services - their spots are all filled. Nancy has promoted the TerraCycle collection online.

Schedule:

Friday Set Up: Nancy, Carol, Geri, Janelle

Volunteers for Friday at the community life center to set up tables and stations, TerraCycle bins, etc. Janelle has the materials ready to go.

Saturday Volunteers: Jen, Bonnie, Ruth, Liz will do sharpening, Janelle can step into any gaps.

Day of: Janelle arrives at 8, Fixers by 8:30, Volunteers 8:30, Appointments are 9-11:30, the event runs 9-12.

Book Swap & TerraCycle Event

Sat. March 18th, Early Drop off Friday the 17th

The last Book Swap went well, with smooth volunteer activity, and folks were allowed to enter a little early. There were 530 attendees, though less than the record attendance of more than 800 reached once in the past.

The Facebook announcement has 100s who plan on going and are interested.

Janelle anticipates sending out a request for volunteer shifts next week after the Repair Cafe is over. Finalize 2023 calendar of events

Janelle can add the styrofoam event if the Committee thinks it can be fit into a busy spring. Since there are 3 Repair Cafes this year, we have an event in May, none in April.

- March 18th BookSwap
- March E-Waste: 3/25
- April Household Hazardous Waste day (in Beverly) TBD
- May Repair Cafe dates: setup 5/19, event 5/20 Janelle will reach out to the community life center to confirm if these dates are available.

Salem Recycling Committee Minutes, 2/7/2023

- June Swap and Drop: 6/3 or 6/10 It's on the Common. Janelle will reach out to see which date works.
- June E-Waste: 6/24
- Sept. Book Swap: 16th? Janelle checking with Community Center on this date
- Sept. E-Waste: 9/30
- November Repair Cafe: 11/4, Janelle checking with Community Center on this date
- November Textile & TerraCycle Drive- 18th Riley Plaza
- December E-Waste- 12/16

Combining Styrofoam recycling and E-Waste event may work- This has worked for other communities, Salem has done a combo e-waste Styrofoam day but a long time ago, no data remains. The committee feels good about this idea. Since Salem combines with other communities, it may be tricky. Janelle to check with contacts running E-Waste. E-Waste doesn't cost the City of Salem any money. The E-Waste company, RMG collects fees directly from residents for certain items. E-Waste is regularly a very busy event.

Film Festival Sponsorship

SalemRecycles has historically sponsored this event. They can't share the film list, but said there will likely be environmentally-related films involved. Cost: \$300 film sponsorship, \$500 VIP Film Sponsorship SalemRecycles has had a table there in the past, but not recently, while the environmentally oriented film was happening.

There is ambivalence towards there could be better ways to promote the work of the committee to new audiences with this money. Concern about what the film would be and the message aligning with the committee's mission. Decision: due to not being able to choose a film in advance, the committee decided to pass this year on sponsorship

SalemRecycles Budget:

Janelle doesn't have an exact cost list at the moment, but that money does exist. The Committee is interested in learning more about this.

Correspondence

Newsletter-February topics

Janelle has started the newsletter - items to be included: Bookswap, Repair Cafe photos, Mattress recycling information, 2022 Recap of data would be fun, Janelle has 2022 data and will collect it for this issue. There is interest in making this an annual occurrence.

Committee Roles

Historically Committee Members managed the Newsletter, Janelle has been doing it while new positions were filled.

Positions/Roles:

- Chair Person: (open) Prior to meetings creates the agenda and sends to the group, runs meetings, makes sure the secretary/minutes are in order and posted, keeps meetings running/on task, follows the agenda, and can be the point person who would be the face of the committee (ie: reporter or something); Sometimes a City person would meet with officers of the Committee
- Vice Chair: Carol
- Secretary: Jen
- Newsletter Coordinator: (open)
- Instagram poster: (open) can be combined with Newsletter or not
- Facebook Account: Nancy

Another model is to have subcommittees

A-Z List - Jen explained the database to the new members and recommended everyone go there and familiarize themselves with it. It needs to be updated/revised but would take the entire committee as it is very broad and comprehensive. GreenSalem.com

Bulk Items

Charging for bulk items began yesterday, Feb 6th. Bulk items has always cost the City money, but we've moved to align the City with many other municipalities across the state to charge for this service. This has been a surprise for some people when they're charged \$20/item for disposing of bulk items with WM. Nancy has seen some complaints on Facebook. The City is still covering part of the expense. White goods have always been free for residents and the City continues to cover the full amount for this curbside service.

Bulk item list is specific (bikes, coolers, desks, sinks, toilets, windows, umbrellas, furniture). WM does not collect E-Waste as the City offers 4 E-Waste collection events each year. White goods (dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, stoves, washing machines, hot water heaters, and trash compactors) are still free for Salem residents, picked up once a month on a scheduled Friday, except in June when they can be picked up twice through WM.

Welcome packets for new residents

Janelle heard that new resident packets are being updated and she has an opportunity to update SalemRecycles information, events, website, and literature. We can list our regular events and newsletter.

Other Business

A-Z list/Prescription drugs - could not be found on the A-Z unless it matched the term perfectly. There is interest in making the search function more flexible in its search functions.

Note: Prescription bottles are considered medical waste and are not curbside recyclable

Social Gathering

This committee has not gathered in person yet. Traditionally the committee has gathered together in July for a potluck, in December for a used gift swap, and in the summer for a volunteer pizza party at the Winter Island social hall

Motion: Joel, let's get together in the next month, 2nd by Bruce

Joel: sending an email about getting together

Joel volunteered to be the Committee Chair, the role was discussed, the committee voted Joel into the Chair role.

Action Items

- Jen- to get numbers for meeting notes
- Jen- sending Draft Minutes to the entire committee for comment/edit Feb 8th/edits due back Feb 17
- Nancy- to promote technology repair for Repair Cafe
- Janelle- finding out if Styrofoam can be added to 6/24 E-Waste event
- Janelle- writing up Recycling information for new residents & suggesting the newsletter
- All members: how would the committee work best, individuals taking on roles or working in subcommittees
- Janelle- looking into Styrofoam storage at the Community Center and the Annex
- Committee members- Considering a Styrofoam Subcommittee March meeting.
- Joel- sending an email about getting together