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

SalemRecycles Minutes

May 3, 2022 6:30pm

**Present:** Micaela Guglielmi, Carol Hautau, Geri Yuhas, Jen Birenbach, Bruce Cohen, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg,

**Absent:** Shannon Chretien, Bonnie Bain, Kristin Woodruff,

**Guest:** Andy Varela (Councillor Ward 7)

April 2022 minutes were voted on by roll call vote.

**New Business  
May 7 Book Swap:** We now have enough volunteers after the second email was sent. About 20 per shift, anticipating cancellations or no shows. the vendor, Discover Books, is ready for post-event pick-up at 12:30. Micaela is buying snacks, pizza for Friday night, donuts etc for Saturday. Signs: Drop Off Here, What we do and don’t accept- she has signs ready. Also accepted: greeting cards, puzzles, calendars, reusable bags. Masks: no signs/comments, masks & sanitizer available. Volunteers: Fri (4-7 drop off) volunteers: 3:45 arrival is good. Micaela arrives at 3pm and sets up tables with Jonathan, our custodian. Suggested to have very simple book categories, mystery can be combined with fiction for example. Reminders: intake is so fast, books selection will have to be “best guess” to avoid backlogs, a misplaced book is fine. Attendance: if there are too many people, can pause entrants. Sorting table: don’t linger, it can back up fast. Children’s Table: location: indoors/outdoors? 1 or 2 tables? table outside on Saturday if weather cooperates. FB Event: 94 going, 408 interested.

**Next Repair Café:** fall? Summer? lots of travel this year, so summer may not be a good idea. We will probably keep one in December and one in March. Events: pre-covid events were planned out for the year, then because of covid dates varied, the committee wants to return to long-term planning.

**Next Styrofoam Day:** 6/11, Salem hosting at CLC per Beverly’s request, their parking lot is occupied. feedback: event was too long, so it’s 9-12 instead of 9-1. Only one volunteer shift this time instead of two shifts last time. Micaela will call for volunteers, need more volunteers this time, 4 is a good number of Salem volunteers, Beverly will have 4 or more, and Save That Stuff will have one representative. Micaela printed flyers, she’ll bring them to the book swap, she doesn’t feel it will be hard to find volunteers for the Styrofoam date. Micaela will bring e-waste and other flyers to the book swap so committee members can hang flyers around town.

**Styrofoam/Compostable Ordinance:** Councillor Varella was not there at that time. Council is still finalizing it, no invitations to attend any meetings this past month. Restaurants: some seem to be using compostable containers already. Committee can encourage the public to ask restaurants to use compostable take out containers. Next Email blast: include something about asking restaurants about using compostable containers (or not-plastic) when ordering food.

**Committee Positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary):** Chair -leader of the group (currently Carol), runs the meetings, edits minutes, leadership role and answers questions at events. Vice Chair - chair back up (currently vacant). Secretary- minutes taker (Kirsten for a couple years now) - sends minutes to Chair and Micaela for edits/sharing. Elections: June is typical, one year term. Please start thinking about if you would like to step up as an officer. In the past, officers have met with Micaela on their own quarterly.Meeting in Person: Micaela has heard rumors of having a hybrid meeting, but she’s waiting for guidance on that. Geri: BoH is mtg hybrid, but it was their choice. Micaela looking into the in-person rules.

**TerraCycle Update:** Generated enough material to box up and Micaela can start shipping it next week, we have already shipped them material in the past. We have credits from TerraCycle and need to determine which organization we would donate the money too. Additional boxes- determining locations at CLC, Gillette and Toms (toothpaste and toothbrushes) boxes - wouldn’t have to go inside to drop them off, they would be in the doorway.

**Task Force- Updates**

**Green Salem A-Z Guide**: moving forward with updating and going through the guide. Jen has some emails to send to Micaela. Summer slows down, will be a good time to work on this.

**Community Outreach**

**Waste Reduction Coordinator Update:** Micaela attended a social media seminar, she’s going to start doing TiKTok videos that she can then share on other social media platforms. Micaela is teaching a composting lesson at Horrace Mann Elementary next week. Micaela tabled at SSU office supply swap and gave out flyers about Book Swap and our events. Micaela is applying to the MA DEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant which she applies for every year and helps fund her salary. Points Programs MA DEP - points = dollars are given in a grant, $30-$50K typically. Cameron asked about recycling contamination, this is different, Waste Management gives the City credit for cleaner recycling. Terracycle- their points are from collections, not a large amount but helpful and the committee can give it to a non-profit or city group.

**Textile Recycling Educational Campaign:** Upcoming MA DEP waste ban will prohibit textiles and mattresses from being disposed of as trash. Textiles must all be donated or recycled. Search “Massachusetts Waste Bans” for information about how to recycle textiles. On GreenSalem it explains the textile recycling options in Salem including having HELPSY pick up at the curb. What groups are we missing? We should reach out to residents of apartment complexes who may be trashing textiles. A Letter to the Editor about the new statewide waste disposal bans will be developed - Bruce will draft the letter & work with Micaela and others.

**Farmers Market:** September 22nd, 3-7 at Derby Square. some members have volunteered already. Kylie said October 13 is also available

**Correspondence**

**Social Media Update:** FB update: 2774 follows, 3 live events on the page - invite your local friends to join in. Shannon is working with Nancy to plan out their posts on a schedule. Instagram: 1090 followers, Twitter: 576 followers

**Electronic newsletter:** mattress & textiles options. No type of plastic bags with City- who takes them? Some grocery stores take them: MB, Target, HD, Walmart & Shaws. Water filling stations - promote!

Councillor Andy Varela- joined at the end asking about a possible ordinance banning plastic water bottles, but not banning other types of beverages - what are the committee’s thoughts? water in cans or cartons may be a good solution, bottle deposit on cans. Can we change bottle deposit laws to include water bottles? Can we have more public recycling bins? But, they are often too contaminated to be recycled. Tourists may not bring their own bottle and need water. Promote water filling stations in the parks and at the visitor center.

**Other Business**

General Committee Announcements: 5 touches to change a mind or behavior - something to consider when promoting programs. Andy V: Polystyrene ordinance will focus on styrofoam and not include straws or cutlery at this time. Looking for it to be very simple - cleaning up the language- possibly voting on it in June - will visit straws & compostables in the future

“Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 18-25 and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028

through 2-2033.”