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MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
Recycling Committee
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Janelle Rolke, CITY LIASON
Carol Hautau, VICE CHAIR

SalemRecycles Committee Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2022

Attendees: Carol Hautau, Bruce Cohen, Nancy Gilberg, Bonnie Bain, Geri Yuhas, Cameron Fullerton, Joel Dashnaw, Janelle Rolke (City Liason).

Guests: Sam Snitkovsky, Demi Fox

Absent: Jen Birenbach

Guest Speaker:

Sam Snitkovsky guest speaker from Swampscott High. Implemented compost program in Swampscott HS.

Swampscott - District wide there is one public high school

Background of how composting was initiated.

Making sure that everyone affected was aware of the goals

Head of custodians were in the planning conversations from the beginning as they are major stakeholders for

town administrator - Land and Recreation (Swampscott)

superintendents are not as important to meet with in the planning process. The intention is not to skirt around them, but it's smaller as a task and we want to stay focused on the folks who can implement it.

Where does the money come from?

Black Earth rates for Swampscott HS

- \$50 a week
- 37 weeks in a school year
- \$1,900 a year

The composting pick up is less expensive than the trash. Sam recommended that High school level is easier to start with because students "get it"

In Salem there are 900 kids at HS and 50 at New Liberty

Black Earth gives discounts but probably slightly more than Swampscott (700 kids)

In terms of the annual school budget, the cost to compost is marginal.

Don't allow program to get distracted by big picture of changing everything. For instance, don't pull in compostable trays yet. Get the compost program underway and perhaps after that try to bring in more big picture items.

Engage students. The success is up to them. Host an assembly at school about what can and can't be composted. Create simple signage.

Janelle - The staff at each school responsible for trash and recycling should be included in the conversation.

How much food waste is collected per week? 300 gallons.

Middle school program was almost a pilot a few years back, used as point of reference to choose the gallons expected.

We would see savings if we ensure that there is less trash in our system, so less cost from WM as we are charged by tonnage.

Swampscott has a different solid waste contract so their savings will not be seen as quickly.

In March Swampscott had compost bins in the kitchen. In April they rolled it out into the cafeteria broadly.

Was signage translated? Photos? - Sam made these himself. No translation, but would be helpful in Salem.

How did you monitor contamination? Custodial/Kitchen buy-in and monitoring

Sam mentioned that the napkins they have were not compostable (SalemRecycles Committee members were confused by this)

Paper - NO

First month or two provide some educational efforts, should not need more beyond that

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October 2022 Minutes:

Motion to approve: Joel Dashnaw

Second: Geri Yuhas

Approved.

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New Business:

Reading of the mission:

Our mission is to reduce trash tonnage in the City of Salem by increasing recycling, diverting reusable items, and motivating city stakeholders through education and information.

Waste Management Material Recovery Facility Field Trip (Tuesday October 18th)

- Yearly recycling audit for our city took place from October 3-14th. WM took a sample from each day and reviewed materials. No results yet.
- Toured facility from where trucks dump all the materials, to front end loader to put on a conveyor belt. All the materials go through sensors, air systems, etc.
- Fairly standard according to Joel. Modern and typical. Similar to the other 4-5 he has seen.
- Aluminum is separated with magnets
- Density factors of glass separated through screens
- Every other MRF has a picking line with employees sifting by hand
- North Billerica - Old Boston Globe building
- Janelle took videos and photos - did some posts to share out with the public
- Schematic on the wall might be nice to use

Volunteer Coverage

Book Swap - 11/12

- Thursday 4-7 PM- 17 volunteers
- Saturday - 21 volunteers AM shift and 16 volunteers for later shift
- Discover Books question of what they do and how they recycle/reuse

Textile Drive - 11/19

- Need more Volunteers (9 volunteers for shift 1 and 5 volunteers for shift 2)
- Janelle confirmed with Helpsy that truck will arrive at 7:30 AM and alerted Salem Parking/Traffic to reserve area in Riley Plaza parking lot.

TerraCycle --

- Add Rubbermaid Food Storage to the TerraCycle bins located at City Hall Annex?
- Plastics that can't be recycled like to-go black container

- Free program
- Not brand specific
- Re Nancy: We must be very mindful and specific about the educational piece of this. We recycle by type/shape. If we as a committee are confused about what is and isn't acceptable curbside, residents will be confused. Let's be mindful of this when rolling out the Rubbermaid option.
- Glass and Plastic: Tupperware, Rubbermaid, Glade, Ziplock, & Black To-Go containers

Styrofoam Event:

- Aiming for January 7th, but still need to connect with Erina from Beverly.
- Hopeful to get one other city or town to split the cost more.
- Janelle talked to Marblehead DPW about collaborating on future events like this
- City does receive a couple of questions regarding this event every few weeks
- Pigeon Cove in Gloucester had a machine that is mobile for Styrofoam crunching. Cameron to investigate this.
- Joel - distributed/decentralized equipment for this in the North Shore. Used to be in Save That Stuff. Expense was gatekeeper and trucking. Densifying machine that was decentralized would be nice in a dream world. Perhaps Grief would be willing to install one. Save That Stuff received one on loan from the Solo company.

The MA state Waste Ban on mattresses that is now in place (NOV 1st) has been taking up a lot of time and resources.

Correspondence:

Newsletter sent in Oct

November Topics

- Mattress recycling. Tough Stuff Recycling for curbside service costs \$50/unit, but until city council can vote on amendment to Bulk Item Ordinance, the City of Salem will cover the full cost.
- Tough Stuff Recycling can pivot from once a month to twice a month based on need from residents scheduling service. The mattress recycling facility is in Fitchburg. All mattress recycling rules are strictly followed. We can do a tour this winter.
- Book and Textile Drives
- Yard Waste

Will they do the tree bonfire at dead horse? Nancy says it could be canceled due to high winds. We can bring your own mug for hot cocoa that is served.

DPW and Fire Dept manage it - unclear who the main contact is.

Twitter Account? If someone is interested in running it let us know. Nancy shared you could just mimic

what is already being posted to SalemRecycles Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Guest: Demi Fox introduction. Considering joining the SalemRecycles Committee.

- Salem Resident
- NOAA Marine Debris Program

Compost at Mack Park is pick up by Black Earth Compost on Thursdays - Pumpkin Extras might need a special pick up or they might not want pickups. Janelle will follow up.

Jenn - Action Items Request:

- Janelle: Report back on compost napkin contamination and pumpkins at Mack Park
- Cameron - Styrofoam
- Kerry Murphy and Janelle discussing 2023 grants to ensure composting program in SPS
- Discussion on consistent messaging around plastics/recycling and how to be a positive encourager for residents tabled for next meeting

December Meeting – Take off. Committee would like to host a gathering instead.