

Salem Recycling Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2023

Appointed Members (13)

Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnel, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer
City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Attending

Quorum: 50% +1 = 8

Joel Dashnaw (Chair,) Bruce Cohen, Demi Fox, Nancy Gilberg, Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnel, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer
City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Absent: Jen Birenbach, Catherine Deyo, Carol Hautau Vice-Chair, Mari Alix, Cameron Fullerton

Guests: Erina Keefe, Sustainability Director, Beverly; Sean Zeng, St John's Preparatory High School

Recycling Committee 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.

June 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Lucie; Second: Sandy; Apposed: none; Minutes approved without edits

Recent Events

Styrofoam Event

Volunteers: Lucie, Janelle, Demi, Jen, Mari

Total Costs for the event are not clear

The City pays for bags, paying a fee per bag and fuel surcharges, Janelle thinks the charges were applied differently

The committee is unsure what the cost/benefit analysis is or means - Considering more towns to share the cost, but other towns had minimal involvement- It's hard to optimize the event, January was good because the truck was full and no one was turned away

Traffic: backed up with the very late arrival of the truck & awkward parking, people were backed up onto the road for a few minutes due to the late truck back up

Janelle: e-waste was happening at the high school at the same time and proposes using the high school next time due to the larger area for cars to line up

Goal: need to fill bags as much as possible, due to also being charged per BAG

Nancy: consider holding event once a year rather than eliminating it entirely. Host town has more drop offs.

Joel: Styrofoam is not a weekly item for most people, not having a place to drop off the styrofoam on an ongoing basis it can be prohibitive

Storage space could solve this but location is difficult in Salem

Nancy: what is the environmental value of this?

Joel: proposes a lifecycle evaluation of the material

ACTION: determine costs of this event & if effective to continue and if so, how

ACTION: Janelle to supply the committee with a breakdown of the actual costs from the Styrofoam events

Swap 'N' Drop Event, June 10th

Canceled due to rain, Re-Supply was ok with cancelling

A really fun event, weather can be such a challenge, perhaps a different month would be better

The committee would like to try it again

Downtown is the best location

With advanced planning we could have a rain date

This event has joined with other communities for music and things if desired in the future

ACTION: Committee would like to do this next year, need to plan in advance to make this happen.

Upcoming Events

Ice Scream Bowl, Wed August 9th - Recycling Committee will have a table

Volunteers: Sandy and Brian

Salem MainStreets coordinates the entire event

Janelle will get signage to Kylie at MainStreets

BookSwap, September 23

Set Up: 9/22, Event: 9/23

Janelle to send out emails for volunteers week of August 7th, plenty of volunteers for this event

Other upcoming events: discuss at September meeting

ACTION: Repair Cafe: November 4th - discuss at September meeting

Paper Shredding Event idea

Janelle: shredding services are in high demand

Danvers has paper shredding events, using a service, Beverly sends people there sometimes

ACTION: further discussion on organizing a paper shredding event

Staples has paper shredding, batteries, electronics and other items, it's easy to drop off items

ACTION: Decide if the Committee should promote Staples service in the Newsletter on a regular basis?

Future Events 2023

9/23/23: Free Book Swap & TerraCycle Collection, 10am-1pm Community Life Center (CLC)

11/4/23: Repair Café & TerraCycle Collection, 9-12, Community Life Center (CLC)

11/18/23: Annual Textile Drive & TerraCycle Collection, 8-1pm Riley Plaza, downtown

New Business/ReCaps

Recap on Tough Stuff Recycling Tour, Worcester

Salem Mattress and boxspring contractor

Joel, Brian, Janelle, Michaela attended

80% of the mattresses are recycled - photos posted on social media

It was in the July Newsletter

Nancy will post this on Facebook

Tough Stuff was impressive: recycling, employing, exciting operation

Guest Speaker: Erina Keefe, Sustainability Director, Beverly

She is the only staff person for this work, she is within the Engineering Dept.

Feels Salem does a lot more than Beverly

Erina shared about her role with Beverly, how it works, how it's funded

Want to advance 3 policies: polystyrene; create a regulation for private facilities/apartment buildings which requires the City Council to be involved

They have a Waste Reduction Committee that tries to manage and promote events, such as Black Earth Composting events.

Schools have started a sustainability program.

Discussion around litter and how the Repair Cafe started and works moving forward

Discussed what can Beverly & Salem do together in the future, what roles the Salem committee members have taken on

Newsletter

August / Summer Topics / Content (5 min)

Don't bag recyclables

WM program for oils and grease

Household Hazardous Waste

Mark Your Calendars section: farmers market, Heritage Days, etc

Suggestions accepted

Back to School content: how to pack a zero waste lunch

Open Time , General Announcements, Guest Participation

Crayon Recycling: ended the program with TerraCycle and so Janelle attempted to replace it with Brita recycling

Other Collection sites: Community Life Center has 2 boxes, but doesn't seem well signed enough

TerraCycle has some controversies but committee members aren't sure what's happening there

Committee Dinner: Joel will send out a Doodle poll soon for a committee dinner

Guest: Sean Zeng - no questions now, will return at future meetings

Audit: October - re-evaluating the definition of an audit with the next solid waste & recycling contract, July 2025 (hauler unknown)