

SALEMRECYCLES COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE MARCH 1, 2016

Attending: Carol Hautau, Beth Melillo, Lynn Murray, Flora Tonthat, Geri Yuhas, Myrna Soper, Erin Huggard, Tony Keck, Liz Vago, and Julie Rose (by phone).

Absent: Eva Mossberg, John Roberts, Penny Neal, Susan Yochelson, Nancy Gilbert

6:35pm Meeting opened by Beth Melillo.
February 2016 Meeting Minutes approved.

Date for strategic planning subcommittee meeting set for March 10, in the 3rd floor meeting room of the City Hall Annex. Email to be distributed to confirm time.

Compost Update: Error discovered in letter sent to participants of compost program stating cost per “week” which should have been written to say the estimated cost will be \$7 per month. It was suggested to use the email list for the participants to notify them of this correction and encourage more to sign up. Pay to compost program begins in April and pick-up will be weekly. Notice of this will be found on the websites to encourage additional people to participate in the program.

Julie suggested a mailing for this correction and asked for volunteers to assist with the mailing. Myrna, Geri and Carol stepped up. Julie will follow up regarding a mailing with volunteers.

Butt Bin Update: Additional butt bins have been suggested for areas not yet served by them. The bin style found in Portland, Maine was the type desired. Locations considered for placement include city parks and at the Willows. A March 15 meeting of the subcommittee was set. Confirmatory email will be circulated to subcommittee. Fifty bins are being ordered.

Landlord To-Do List: Input from subcommittee members has been collected and Penny is working on the list to develop a flyer for a mailing to Landlords in April and/or May. This is still a working list and additional input is welcome after an initial draft of the flyer is ready for review.

Book Swap: The upcoming Book Swap schedule was circulated for review. Julie will send out the schedule to all and will include the other volunteers that will be attending. Conor from Black Earth will have someone in attendance to answer questions and sign up people for the compost program. Myrna volunteered to work with the person from Black Earth to encourage more composting and help with questions.

Swap & Drop: This event is scheduled for Saturday May 7th on the Common. Community Development Coalition will provide volunteers for the event and has

promoted the Swap in a flyer also printed in Spanish. Beth will be developing a job description for volunteers. Rain Date: No date for alternate should it rain. It will just be a drop off event to collect clothing items.

Community Outreach: Liz and Eva have been developing a workshop about reducing waste [food] and are looking at either the Swap & Drop event or a mid-May date to hold the event. Additional information about the event will be forthcoming.

Correspondence Updates:

Drop Box – A reminder was made to update the pictures.

Facebook - Nancy provided the information to Beth for presentation. The number of Likes is up to 1332. Nancy asked that everyone on Facebook please “Like” all events posted that run through the end of 2016, and as events are posted. Reuseable Bags will be available at Swap & Drop and members should promote their use. Nancy also reported several articles that have been posted on the page have been well received by followers.

GreenSalem- The site has been updated with the help of the intern (Connor). Members should be watchful of the site to provide input about updating.

Monthly Blog – Beth and Eva continue to handle this area. Consideration of changing Blog posting to the frequency of every 2 months or quarterly was presented. Members agreed with that schedule proposal. Several suggestions were made to include guest bloggers as contributors (with review prior to posting being critical to ensure the message is not in conflict with committee’s goals and does not violate restrictions regarding political advocacy. A suggestion for a Blog was to interview local businesses and ask what they are doing to recycle as well as how they believe recycling could be increased.

Themes for 2016 – Theme topics have been presented at prior meetings, and there is always room for something that comes up as a new or timely topic. It was noted that the Committee is celebrating its 8th anniversary and Lynn suggested an article that promotes the accomplishments of the committee and residents with recycling, as well as what has been happening around the city to increase awareness and action.

Mandatory Recycling – Julie reported that David is continuing the monitoring of the trash/recycle activities around the city for compliance with the city recycling directive. David did request that committee members keep watchful and report concerns to him from around the city.

Julie did report that a fair number the smaller toters are being returned by those

who requested them. Small totes are available to residents by request only to the business office (Julie's office).

Other Business: Flora proposed that the committee promote the use of reusable bags and to avoid plastic bags at all Committee events. Julie said she would add a line regarding this promotion in the committee flyers going forward. There will be a plastic bag collection box present at the Swap & Drop event.

Announcements: Monday June 27 is the Committee potluck. Email to be circulated with details. Mark your calendars.

Volunteer night is set for Tuesday June 14 at Winter Island. Email with details to follow as event date nears.

Meeting adjourned by Beth at 7:30pm