

**SalemRecyclesCommittee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**April 4, 2017**

**In attendance:** Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau, Erin Huggard, Tony Keck, Beth Melillo, Eva Mossberg, Lynn Murray, Melynn Nuite, John Roberts, Julie Rose, Susan Yochelson, Geri Yuhas, Liz Vago

**New Business**

**Minutes** of the March 7th meeting were approved.

**Leadership changes in July**

Flora Tonthat will become Chair, Geri Yuhas will become Vice-Chair

**Bookswap Debrief**

Overall it was a very successful event with a lot of positive feedback from attendees. This is in large part due to experience, planning, feedback, and a lot of energetic volunteers. Although some thought that there might have been too many volunteers, Julie feels strongly that it is important to have as many as possible given the ebb and flow of attendance. It was especially useful to have more out in the parking lot, several positioned as counters and providing information, and a lot of runners on the floor. A suggestion was made to move the refreshments to the small room so that they are out of sight and it is a place where volunteers can take a break. Often times, too many tend to gather behind the sorting tables which can slow down the intake of books. There was also a discussion about eliminating the behind the table sorting, some felt this takes too much time and ties up the process.

**Position and Emeritus Descriptions**

Changes were made prior to the meeting and additional recommendations were added. Both were approved with changes. Eva Mossberg and Penny Neal will transition to emeritus status.

**Old Business**

**Swap and Drop Event**

There will not be an extra city person to help out at the May 6th event and it may be busier this year than ever so many volunteers are needed to help out. In case there are questions about why the recipient organization for all the goods left over from the Swap and Drop is a for-profit, it is because there is not a non-profit willing to this job. In the event of inclement weather, household/hard goods may still be put out for the taking. However, once clothing items become wet they become trash and cannot be recycled.

Everyone is encouraged to bring cloth tote bags in order to send the message that the City is transitioning to a plastic bag ban. Nancy and Melynn will honcho this effort.

**Subcommittee Updates**

**Repair Cafe-**

The subcommittee met a week and a half ago. The event will take place in one of the rooms at the Bridge at 211 (former Universalist Church on Bridge Street). A proposal will be developed and will focus on 4-7 types of repairs initially. There is an MIT grad who started one in Stow

and he will be meeting with some of the subcommittee members in the near future. There will be three Eastern Massachusetts repair cafes going on April 22nd; one of which is in Cambridge. That is also the same day as the March for Science.

### **Butt Bin Recycling**

Now that David Knowlton is also the head of the DPW there will be a revised approach to maintenance of the butt bins. The personnel who empty the trash will also take care of the bins. A list of new requests for butt bins is being kept. The suggestion to affix a sticker on each Butt Bin to provide information on how to get it emptied is being addressed. Often times, providing a correct location is a challenge.

### **Public Recycling**

Update as to what is now okay to recycle - straws in cups, liquid in cups (it jiggles out on the way to the plant) and plastic clamshells. The final graphic for the tops will be ready in a week or two. In order to have a graphic of meaningful size, Julie will order new tops for all 15 of the public recycling containers.

**Pack In/Pack Out**- The reason why recycling containers are not provided at City parks and outdoor spaces is because dog owners throw dog waste into them. The Committee needs to educate the public about this and to promote the concept of Pack In/Pack Out. It also needs to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to disseminate this information.

### **Trash Reduction**

The Mayor spoke about this initiative when she met with the committee in January. Textiles are still a big percentage of what goes into trash. Continuing education is needed in this area so that the public understands that textiles that are not in salable condition can still be recycled and turned into carpet padding, industrial rags etc.

### **Mandatory Recycling Hauler Ordinance**

Heather Famico, Ward 2 City Councillor has been very active in pushing this initiative. There is a meeting on May 1st at 10 am, 120 Washington Street in the large conference room. Rinus Oosthoek Salem Chamber of Commerce, the Salem Board of Health, Sharon Kashida, Mass DEP, and the owners/managers of large apartment buildings are invited. (DEP has wonderful fact sheet on why people must recycle.) They will be provided with education about the draft hauler ordinance as mandatory recycling will be expanded to almost everyone. The Mayor wanted to first inform the owner/managers of the big apartment buildings. Committee attendance at the future hearings will be most welcome.

### **Plastic Bag Ban**

Carol and Susan attended a conference in Worcester on this topic. Their biggest takeaway is that no stone must be left unturned for a smooth transition to a plastic bag ban. In Wellesley, 20 volunteers visited every business and left them with a packet of information. This information along with sample photographs was featured at every public event including their farmers' market, voting booths, and were put into schoolchildren's backpacks. Wellesley had a female mannequin clothed in plastic bags which served as a mascot that was taken to each event. Nancy will make a FB cover photo to promote the ban. The Salem Sound Coastwatch has a high school intern to help with this initiative.

Some facts to consider - a regular supermarket distributes 2, 600,000 bags each year. A large paper bag costs ten cents, a small one is five cents. Given that many communities have

adopted this ban and each have a different approach to it, it may become a state-wide ordinance in the future. Carol and Susan were able to obtain a list of bag suppliers in order to help local businesses transition to this ban. The key to success in this initiative is non-stop education. The committee is hopeful to obtain some funding for educational materials.

### **Communication**

#### **FaceBook update**

There are now 1532 likes. The notice about the Swap and Drop event is up. A textile recycling video was added as well as the notice about the increase in bulk items that can go out with the trash.

There is a need for more short videos that educate about recycling. They can be done with a phone although editing ability is necessary. Tony will consider doing one.

#### **Constant Contact newsletter**

New topics will include education about pack in/pack out at parks, change to the disposal of bulk items, information on what is okay to recycle, e.g. clamshells. Some suggested wording to be included - "approved for recycling at this time", trash reduction and textile issue, and repair cafe event is planned for the future.

#### **Greensalem website**

There will be a meeting at Julie's house on Monday, April 10th at 6 pm.

#### **Mandatory Recycling Update**

**T**here is a continuing issue of toters with lids up. This especially creates problems during inclement weather.

#### **General committee announcement**

On Tuesday April 18th, Salem Sound Coastwatch will be making jellyfish out of plastic bags for the community art installation, and also will be making tote bags out of tee-shirts. This will be done during the following hours on that day - 10-11:30 am, 1:30-3:00 pm, 7- 8:30 pm. This efforts are part of their Earth Day recognition. Donations of plastic bags and tee-shirts will be gratefully appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

