

**SalemRecycles Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 9, 2017**

In attendance: Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau, Erin Huggard, Tony Keck, Beth Melillo, Lynn Murray, Melynn Nuite, Julie Rose, Geri Yuhas, Liz Vago

New Business

Minutes of the April 4th meeting were approved.

Swap and Drop Debrief

T-shirt tote bags were handed out with a note about the plastic bag ban which will go into effect in January 2018. They were a great success. The rain didn't allow for the swap portion of the event; an alternate "Plan B" location was discussed. The committee agreed that an inside event is better than canceling the swap. Two locations were discussed as possible indoor venues, the Salem Council on Aging and the Bridge at 211. The COA location is well known to residents from the Book Swap; Bridge at 211 is closer and is the planned location for the Repair Café. It was determined that the COA was the first choice depending on availability. The decision to move indoors due to weather will be made by 12pm on the Friday before the event.

June Volunteer Appreciation Event

Adding activities or games to this year's event was discussed. Melynn and Nancy will lead efforts to come up with some activities and will form a subcommittee if others are interested in participating. Volunteer names will be drawn again this year for volunteers to select for donated gifts.

Pizza Zero Waste Event

SalemRecycles and Black Earth Compost will again participate in the pizza event on the Salem Common in August. This event is a fundraiser for the Salem YMCA.

Old Business

Subcommittee Updates

Repair Cafe

Several subcommittee members met via teleconference with Ray Pfau from Stowe, MA to learn best practices in starting a Repair Café and several also attended the event in Stow. Lots of good ideas were generated. There is clear need for lots of volunteers and having an event sponsor such as the Rotary Club (the RC sponsored the Stow event) is helpful for insurance coverage. Knife sharpening and sewing/mending, and lamp repair are very popular so we will plan to include them as part of the SalemRecycle's event. We continue to need "tinkerers" who can help with basic electronic and lamp repair.

Butt Bin Recycling

Some stickers are fading on the bins. New stickers are on order.

Public Recycling

New combination recycling/trash barrels in downtown Salem are working well and there is a request in for more combination barrels. A recent one day audit showed that people were largely using them correctly. However, the disposal of straws and ice cream containers remain an issue, however WM can live with the straws in the bales.

Trash Reduction

The subcommittee met to discuss messaging to the general public to continue to lower our trash rate. Susan was commended for the great job with the recent newsletter. Many who received it responded very favorably to the content and the design layout. Julie reminded the committee when Salem's first initiated the limited barrel rules, trash was reduced trash by 26%. After Salem moved to single stream recycling and contracted Waste Management, the rate has been reduced another 8% to 9%. Current rules allow drop off of one bulk item at the Transfer Station and a survey was done recently on what was being dropped off. A dumpster will be on the property until the end of May for drop offs Saturday and Sunday only. People should continue to call WM in advance for pickup of bulk items with recycling and trash pickup. There was some discussion of the new transfer station in Marblehead with compost stations and a question arose about whether that is something that Salem would consider. It was agreed that we have a good compost pick up program in place with Black Earth Compost and we should put our efforts to promoting that program.

Mandatory Recycling Hauler Ordinance

SalemRecycles wrote a letter supporting the new ordinance that requires every business and apartment building to have recycling available. The City Solicitor is currently reviewing the ordinance and will make recommendations to the Salem City Council. No action is required at this time by SalemRecycles to help support the effort, but the Committee may be asked to attend sub committee meetings in the near future.

Plastic Bag Ban

The subcommittee discussed ways to continue to promote and prepare for the upcoming Plastic Bag Ban (January 2018) and identified events where we can promote the change by handing out t-shirt totes. An information booth outside of local grocery stores is one option, the pizza event on the Common is also a good opportunity.

Communication

FaceBook update

There are now 1570 likes up from 1532 last month. The prescription drug drop off was very popular. The repair pictures got 32 shares with a reach of 7100 people. The request for tinkerers got a response but we need more. Teasers for the Repair Café were discussed as a good way to generate traffic and interest. A reminder post about the benefits of participating in the compost program (compost) was suggested.

Creating a new video of a public recycling audit was proposed. Julie will have two interns this summer and an audit of the Pizza Event as zero or near zero waste event would be a good short video project for them to help with.

Constant Contact newsletter

Great response to last newsletter.

GreenSalem website

Beverly likes our website and would like to talk to the committee about how they can set up their own site. Meeting date TBD.

Recent updates to the site have been posted and some changes to grouping of information were made.. Erin will write the next blog.

Mandatory Recycling Update

There has been a big push to get the word out about textile recycling. In general, the effort is going well.

General committee announcement

Flora recently purchased the movie, *Bag It* on DVD and suggested it would be good to have a public viewing before January. She will reach out to Cinema Salem about hosting it, possibly in September. This is currently scheduled for September 24, 2017 at 10am.

Flora will staff a booth at the Salem Arts Festival on Saturday June 3rd. She is collecting t-shirts for the tote bag project. They can be dropped off at 120 Washington Street, 4th floor in the Engineering Dept.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.