

## **SalemRecycles Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes June 6, 2017**

Attendees: Beth Melillo, Julie Rose, Carol Hautau, Melynn Nuite, Flora Thonthat, Geri Yuhas, Erin Huggard, Lynn Murray, Susan Yochelson, Tony Keck, John Roberts

Absent: Liz Vago

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

#### **New Business:**

- May 3rd meeting minutes approved
- "Bag It" movie confirmed by Flora to be screened at Cinema Salem on September 24<sup>th</sup> and we will be working with Salem Sound Coast Watch to promote it. Discussion about having a donation box to help the committee raise funds to create educational materials for the upcoming plastic ban ordinance. Julie and Flora will work to figure out best methods.
- No committee meeting in the month of July

#### **Old Business:**

- June 14<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Appreciation Night to be held at Winter Island. As in past years there will be a raffle of donated items. Nancy and Melynn have come up with "ice breaker" games including a name tag game and a bag toss that will test the volunteers and committee members on the items that are recyclable, compostable, trash and others. The bags will be labeled with different items and teams will be formed and given a short time to get all their bags into the appropriate bins.
- There will be a DEP meeting in Wilmington on September 12th and Julie was asked if committee members would like to come and make a presentation. Julie will reach out to members individually.
- DEP Grant update – include Repair Café. Julie is submitting grants for a small equipment grant as well as a Dividends Reward Grant which will enable the city to retain David Holland as the Mandatory Recycling Manager and give him more hours to perform his job. There is also a larger School Grant that the Mayor wants us to look at to promote better recycling programs for the schools.

#### **Subcommittee Updates:**

- Repair Café: Great response received from survey with 40 people at this time wanting to volunteer. Dates have been chosen: August 5<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be held at Bridge at 211.
- Butt Bin: Ray Joidin is now in charge of the bins. Labels have faded and Julie has ordered new ones. If bins are overflowing or not collected go to See, Click Fix or Julie Rose to report it. Monies from the recycled butts go to Salem Main Streets.
- Public Recycling: Julie and David will be doing an audit tentatively in late June. Last summer the report was very good so they will focus on bad spots. New bins will be placed on Artists Row.
- Trash Reduction: David is working out in the field leaving information for residents. Educating about textile recycling.
- Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance: All haulers throughout the city would have to be regulated. That would be done by the Board of Health. A fine structure would need to be put in place. It could be attached through their annual

license renewal. Testimony in front of the City Councilors makes a powerful statement to this goal.

- Plastic Bag Ban: Art Fest 2017 provided an ideal venue to talk to locals about the upcoming ban as the volunteers helped people make reusable bags from old t-shirts. Many people had not yet heard though Carol and Geri said they received positive feedback. Some had concerns about pet waste and were told produce bags work just as well. Susan presented the winning flyer created as a contest to students. They will be included in a package for distribution to vendors in the city. Also included will be a list of FAQ's. We are looking to book a booth at the farmers market this summer to reach out to more residents.
- Green Salem: Updated regularly though we should be mindful to check on an ongoing basis.

Community Outreach: Ongoing through various events.

Correspondence:

- Facebook: 1577 likes. Art Fest t-shirts got a great response.
- REMINDER AGAIN: Invite, Share and Like our posts to get the word out!
- E-mail Reminder: Sent out by Nancy in an e-mail. Inform, Action and
- Short Videos – footage and text: We do not have anyone at this time. Nancy will mention to a neighbor who has a grandchild who loves making short films to see if they might be interested.
- Electronic newsletter- topics, creation and increasing distribution: Messaging upcoming bag ban, repair café etc.
- Periodic Blog: Eva working on July issue.

Mandatory Recycling update:

- This month work is focusing on bulk items. David is knocking on doors and tries to reach out to tenants first and then goes to the landlord. If you see Waste Management picking up things they should not let Julie know. They are a large company and can muddle what rules apply to different cities.

General Committee Announcements:

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.