



**Minutes SalemRecycles Committee Meeting held  
Tuesday, September 5, 2017  
at 6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA**

Present: Julie Rose, Nancy Gilberg, Beth Melillo, Geri Yuhas, Carol Hautau, Lynn Murray, Susan Yochelson, John Roberts, Tony Keck, and Melynn Nuite (committee clerk)

Absent: Flora Tonthat, Erin Huggard, Liz Vago, Penny Neal

Meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. by Geri Yuhas

**Minutes of August 1, 2017** – were approved as written.

**New Business**

1. Haunted Happenings Parade participation. Parade will take place on Thursday, October 5, 2017. Costumes will need to be made. Costumes would have to be made/created. It was discussed and agreed that best theme would be around the plastic bag reduction / reusable bag initiative program that goes into effect Jan 1, 2018. In order to be a parade group, there needs to be at least six participants. Salem Sound Coastwatch and SalemRecycles will join together so presently Nancy, Carol, Flora, Jack, Susan and Megan will be parade participants. Julie Rose will submit parade registration of this group. Susan will be in contact with Flora to workout costume details.

**Old Business**

1. September Book Drop and Swap  
Room set up and DROP-OFF only will take place on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Set up will include free re-usable bags station and information about the plastic bag reduction ordinance.

FREE event will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging located at 5 Broad Street. Since last meeting Julie has noted that more fliers have been put up by 2 volunteers that help Julie. Volunteers are expected to arrive not later than 8:30 a.m. for 1<sup>st</sup> shift, and not later than 11:00 a.m. for 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

It was noted that this event has a routine and in general flows very well and draws a good crowd. Julie did remind us that volunteers are there to keep the event running smoothly; time will be allotted to volunteers to peruse and 'shop'. Beverages and snacks will be for volunteers.

Committee members took additional fliers to post around town and their communities.

2. Bag It movie-

This movie (45 minute version) will be shown September 24, 2017, at CinemaSalem from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. followed by a Q&A that Salem Sound Coastwatch has agreed to lead. Attendees will be given re-usable bags. This event is sponsored by SalemRecycles AND Salem Sound Coastwatch. Thanks to CinemaSalem for hosting this event.

3. Debrief Repair Café held August 5, 2017 at the Bridge at 211

Our FIRST repair café was a huge success. Julie updated Mayor Driscoll as she was out of town. Remember the repair café was one of the Mayor's initiatives for our committee this year. 39 people brought ~150 items of which 125 were repaired. There were consultations (e.g., zippers, cameras, furniture) done for some repairs that will likely come back for completion in November. The Salem Gazette did a very nice write-up of our event posted on August 10, 2017

There were some comments made / concerns expressed about business cards being available / handed out. The committee agreed that this was not against our mission – reduce, reuse (now repair), recycle. In addition, that is part of the model for a repair café, so the volunteers receive some exposure for their businesses; many were very appreciative of this benefit. Repairs done at the café are done free of charge. If fixers have business cards then the cards can be provided. At the café they are expected to provide repair services.

It would be nice to have a bicycle repair station – Maybe Dan Shuman from Salem Cycles could come in November. Some conversation about the event being open to “only” Salem residents. Discussion was had about Salem residents having priority service but if folks from out of town came and their repair could be done then we would try our best to repair their item.

It would be nice to have increased pre-registration so we could get a better idea of the kinds of fixers / tinkerers to invite.

Our next repair Café is booked for Saturday, November 4, 2017 9 a.m. to Noon (for volunteers 8 a.m. - ~1:00 p.m.) at The Bridge at 211 in Murray Hall.

4. Debrief of Salem's Best Pizza Tasting Night held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at the Salem Common

SalemRecycles and Black Earth Compost teamed up with the YMCA (the main sponsor of the event) to make this event a near-zero-waste event. Those committee members in attendance said the that this event too, has become easy over time. Attendees know that there is compost, recycle, and trash bins. SalemRecycles agrees that we will continue to participate in this event.

The observation was made that a bank sponsor was handing out goodies that were not sustainable in nature. A member of the committee will follow-up to see if this organization will consider a sustainable or re-usable goodie / freebie item.

5. Debrief of Ice Scream Bowl event was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the Salem Common.

Salem Main Streets (Kiley Sullivan, executive director) is the host of this event. SalemRecycles was a sponsor (\$350) this year so as to make this event a sustainable/recyclable event (i.e. no styrofoam bowls or plasticware). Julie reported that Kiley is very much on board with the mission of the SalemRecycles and continues to partner with us for this event.

## **Subcommittees- updates**

### **1. Repair Café-November 4, 2017**

Like our first event, volunteers are needed to do both the set-up AND breakdown of the event. Julie will send out requests for tinkers / fixers. She asked the committee members also ask around for repair volunteers. Get each volunteer's name and contact (and repair type) to Julie for planning.

### **2. Butt Bin Recycling-adoption program-vote to finalize**

The Adopt a Butt Bin contract was reviewed by the committee members and minor edits were noted. By committee vote, 8 agreed and 1 opposed to the start of this program as a pilot / soft launch program. With regard to bragging rights – the cost of running an ad at CinemaSalem is presently prohibitive at ~\$1,000 / year. We can post 'bragging rights' on our Blog and on our website as well as SalemRecycles Facebook page.

Next steps: 1. contract to get city legal review, 2. Committee to decide of soft launch logistics.

### **3. Public Recycling**

- a. Straws in the recycle stream, at this time, are NOT contaminants.
- b. New covers are being ordered and Julie showed the new cover design graphics. The committee was in agreement that the order can be placed.

### **4. Trash Reduction**

Not discussed at this meeting.

### **5. Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance**

Not discussed at this meeting; Topic will be tabled until December 2017 or January 2018.

### **6. Reusable Bag Initiative**

Sub-committee meeting will be held on September 6, 2017 at 12 Noon at 120 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor small conference room.

There was some apparent mis-communication to a number of stores that there would be some 'exempt' plastic bags for use under Salem's new ordinance. To date there are no exemptions. The thickness of the plastic bags in the City's ordinance is > (greater than) 4 mil.

Lynn M. will do a blog post about plastic bags in the very near future. Susan Y. and Lynn M. will attend the September 12, 2017 NIAC meeting. This presentation was cancelled- NIAC does not want a presentation.

7. Community outreach

Nancy did a Facebook post about water bottle filling stations and it received 190 likes and 36 shares. Nancy received guidance to contact Tom Devine to further discuss getting water bottle filling stations in Hall and Salem public schools. Graham Marcoux is a high school science teacher and may be helpful to Nancy and this committee's exploration of the possibility of this initiative.

Farmer's Market on Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 3-7 p.m. Derby Square (Old Town Hall). SalemRecycles and/or Salem Sound Coastwatch to fill in for the Board of Health slot. We will have information available re re-usable bag initiative, curbside leaf pick-up, etc. Susan Y and Jack to see if they are available. If any other committee members are available please contact Julie.

Flora has committed SalemRecycles to the Point Neighborhood for their Saturday, September 30, 2017 block party from 3-8 p.m. after having attended a meeting with CDC to develop ideas for partnerships and for SR to get the word out about recycling in this neighborhood. . Flora, Julie and Carol have met with Rosario Ubiera-Minaya with hopes to get this area of Salem more actively involved with city recycling initiatives.

## **Correspondence**

1. E-mail reminders

Please continue to use ACTION, INFORM in the subject line of your e-mails addressed to the committee.

2. Facebook – presently has 1,648 Likes and ~1,600 page followers

Nancy Gilberg is doing a terrific job with the SalemRecycles Facebook page. There are more and more events and Nancy makes the posts interesting by regularly changing graphics and posting other of-interest reduce, reuse (repair) and recycle stories.

3. Short Videos-footage and text-meeting with SATV

These ideas need to given to Julie so next steps can be sorted. Local videos may be more meaningful to our city. Patrick, Flora and Melynn to work on this initiative.

4. Electronic newsletter

We need topics, creation of and ideas to increase distribution. Susan Y. suggested to have a post of "getting back to basics" as good reminder to all about what we can do to reuse, reduce (repair) and recycle.

5. [www.GreenSalem.com](http://www.GreenSalem.com)

Julie reminded folks to contact her, Flora, Beth, and Nancy with noted changes on this web page to keep it up and current. A-Z links were checked, corrected and fixed/correctly linked this summer by one of Julie's summer interns. Julie currently has no interns to work on this site so it is up to committee members to review and note changes that are required and suggestions for improvement. Ideas for updates include plastic bag information and Art Fest updates.

6. Periodic Blog

- a. Lynn M. will write up a plastic bag topic to be posted
- b. Idea given to write about new recycle resources

### **Mandatory Recycling update**

Short discussion about what would happen if recycling not done – 1. Fine if found not recycling at all? 2. Fine if trash is in recycling? To be further discussed.

### **Other Business**

General Committee Announcements

The Bridge at 211 is having a 'Found Art' seminar

### **Calendar of Events**

1. September 30, 2017 8:00 a.m. to Noon – E-waste and Household Toxic/Hazardous Waste recycling at Salem High School Parking lot. Nancy has made the calendar event on Facebook which has directions and costs. The event organizer (Larry) is aware of signage and traffic pattern.
2. November 4, 2017 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Repair Café at The Bridge at 211, Murray Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next Meeting will be October 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melynn Nuite  
SalemRecycles Committee Clerk  
Ward 6 resident