

SalemRecycles Committee Meeting
June 5, 2018, 98 Washington Street

Present: Nancy Gilberg, Beth Gillett, Carl Hautau, Erin Huggard, Shelby Hypes, Tony Keck, Lynn Murray, Julie Rose, Liz Vago, Susan Yochelson, Geri Yuhas (Chair)

Absent: Melynn Nuite, John Roberts

The meeting was convened at 6:30 pm by Geri Yuhas.

Minutes

Minutes of May 1, 2018, meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Swap and Drop Debrief

- Discussed suggestion to disconnect from Clean Sweep. Decided no, as available Saturdays in May are limited.
- Although there seemed to be more people there, we need to promote more effectively next year. Ideas:
 - Update our PR checklist; regroup and rethink this summer.
 - Signage at book swap and possibly Rotary sign.
 - Put small "Drop and Swap this Saturday at Salem Common, 9-12 weather permitting" lawn signs around town as Beautification Committee does.
 - Places to promote: Patch, Gazette, Salem News event calendar, Salem Chamber event calendar, Destination Salem, LifeBridge, NextDoor, NIAC, neighborhood associations (many have regrouped and revitalized)
 - Need to update look and feel of flyers for 2019. Shelby Hypes will do. Needs to be done by August/September.
- Goods left at end are a challenge. Concern expressed that dumping things into bins could lead to broken items. We were reminded that only textiles are moneymakers for Matt and, given his general helpfulness, we can't complain too much. Someone could research alternatives, but hard goods are a problem for most recyclers as they can't predict what they'll get.
- Discussed and decided not to involve shelters beyond posting flyers as they receive many donations directly and we need "droppers" as well as "takers."

Waste Management tour Tues, June 12

- Julie Rose will be leaving at 9, tour is at 10 and will last an hour and a half; return to Salem about 1pm. Coordinate with Julie if are able to go.

Volunteer Appreciation Weds, June 13

- Board members are asked to remind any volunteers they know.
- Julie Rose is arranging food and beverages.
- Everyone (who has these items) is asked to bring cut flowers from yard + upcycle gifts; we have some from gifts from the Swap 'n Drop and purple bags from Destination Salem.
- Game: "What would you make out of it?" Put items related to waste and litter reduction on table for people to write down reuse ideas. Have a big white paper for ideas on waste and litter reduction in general. Liz Vago and Susan Yochelson are in charge.

No July meeting

There will be a potluck dinner on June 25 at Julie Rose's house. Sign-up list circulated.

Zero waste pizza event August 6

Beth Gillett will manage with support from Nancy Gilberg. This is well organized and should be relatively easy to do.

Book swap

It looks like we will be in the new building. This will be announced formally on August 1. We need to revisit how logistics given new space, i.e., more outside guides and perhaps inside volunteers. Do not know what we will have for tables, etc.

Officers

Thank you Geri Yuhas who steps down as chair at the end of the month. Unanimously approved officers for 2018-2019: Tony Keck (chair) Melynn Nuite (Vice chair) and Lynn Murray (clerk).

Subcommittees

Butt bins

- Flora Tonthat has adopted the butt bin near her B&B. She is the only person/organization so far.
- Salem Sound Coastwatch's intern has mapped all butt bins, old and new, and is creating an app with GIS that shows the bin's number, and location. This will be very useful for bin adopters as well as smokers looking for a butt bin.
- The intern is also identifying hot spots where there are a lot of butts and either no butt bin or the bin is not being used. So far: Pickering Wharf, outside Bambolina, and the walkway from Church to Federal Street past Yasi & Yasi.
- We have an inactive butt bin FB page. Nancy Gilberg will reactivate and post butt bin sponsor logos, e.g., Northey House, as well as the new butt bin app when it is available.
- Up to 1/3 of bins have been stolen; some were being resold. Committee needs to meet to figure out next steps.

Trash reduction bookmark

Erin Huggard showed a sample. It is for textiles only. Looks great. Need to have done to hand out at book swap. Library also a good place to distribute.

Litter

- There will be a stakeholders' meeting at the end of June or in July as a number of people (Barbara Warren, Lisa Peterson) are expressing concerns about litter. Issue is not just a matter of having enough trash cans; it's also dealing with a "The world is my trash bin" attitude.
- Noted Bambolina's trash can. Need to find out if it's their own or belongs to City.

Straws

- This is a hot topic and is getting traction. The Park Service is collecting straws at the beach and plans a display in the Visitors Center. Starbucks has a new strawless cup. Front Street has straws you can buy.
- We need to develop a card about straws to distribute to restaurants.

Mandatory recycling/hauler ordinance

- Geri Yuhas reported that it looks like everyone on board to approve at City Council meeting. On target to pass by June 13 deadline.
- Every hauler, including landscapers, will need to be licensed (\$100 cost). This is good as many are dumping by side of road

Websites

- Shelby Hypes and Micaela Guglielmi have been updating greensalem.com.
- Funding cut for website hosting, not to mention new site, was cut from recycling budget, so we need to find funding elsewhere. Susan Yochelson reported there may be a way to apply to New England Grassroots Foundation as a separate (not city) organization.
- Lynn Murray has done first draft of salem.com revamp. We will review this over the summer

- Website committee to meet in July.

Community outreach

- Micaela Guglielmi's tags are being very well received.
- Plastic bags remain a major issue; Julie Rose reported that 90% of contamination in carts is attributable to plastic bags and if contents are contaminated, they automatically become trash. Waste Management will soon start leaving carts unemptied if they are not in compliance. City can then levy fines, which are fairly substantial. We hope they will lead to compliance. Part of the issue is simply lack of staff to do ticketing.
- We believe we really need to promote this: take photos of carts with plastic bags. Post Tony Keck's recyclables organizing system.

Correspondence

Facebook

- Nancy Gilberg reported 2109 likes...33 new, maybe from the Crayola post. Also popular: posts on straws and welcome to Micaela Guglielmi.
- Nancy has done FaceBook events through end of year, but we do want reminders.
- Upcoming posts: 10th anniversary article, bottle filling stations and Micaela's trash "stickers."

Newsletter

- Discussed recyclables article in 6/5/18 *Boston Globe* re impact of China refusing to accept recyclables and some haulers trashing this material because they can't get rid of it.
 - Article considered oversimplified. Waste Management not mentioned because it is not one of the offenders. (They are stockpiling.)
 - It's a complicated issue, in part because single stream may be cheaper/easier for haulers but significantly increases likelihood of contamination. Julie Rose reported that Jim from Waste Management thinks it will take three to five years to turn this around and be able to handle all of our own recycling.
 - This will affect us, possibly as increased taxes. In February, recycling budget assumed \$22 per ton; in April cost was \$40 and it will go higher. Some haulers are trying to back out of contracts that are now big \$\$ losers for them.
 - We think we need to focus on getting people to recycle correctly, avoiding contamination.
 - Susan Yochelson to talk to Waste Management guys during site visit on June 12.
 - Next newsletter to cover wish cycling, straws, welcome to Micaela Guglielmi,, bottle filling stations and no plastic wrap in carts.. Link to blog
- Blog
 - Liz Vago may use above recyclable build-up information for next blog post, citing this increasing problem as another reason to reuse...and reduce what you buy in the first place.

Strategic plan

Officers will meet before August to figure out action plan

Other business

- Julie Rose summarized *Salem Gazette* article and sent to New England Recycling Coalition for their newsletter. They have an award; we need to look into deadline and submit something at next round.
- Mercury recycling; Waste Management does not do this. We need to promote that Ace takes fluorescent tubes; Home Depot and possibly Whole Foods take the compacts.
- Alkaline batteries: Nancy Gilberg to follow up on O'Keefe Center collection point. (julie subsequently learned they are collecting and responsibly disposing of all types of batteries-open to staff and students of SSU only)

Summary of action Items

- Shelby Hypes to schedule GreenSalem.com committee meeting for July
- Shelby Hypes to update look and feel of 2019 flyers.
- Liz Vago and Susan Yochelson to plan “what could you do with this” activity for volunteer night
- Beth Gillett to organize zero waste pizza event
- Butt bin committee needs to schedule meeting
- Tony Keck to send photos of his home recycling station
- Officers to meet regarding strategic plan.
- Nancy Gilberg to check on battery recycling at O’Keefe Center.

Unassigned:

- Find out if Bambolina’s trash bin is their’s or City’s
- Possibly research alternative partner for Swap and Drop
- Review book swap needs in light of new location
- Regroup and update PR checklist
- Developing a “suck it up” straw card to hand out
- Review salem.com write-up over summer

Everyone

- Flowers and upcycle gifts for Volunteer Appreciation night

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Hypes
Ward 2 Resident