

SalemRecycles Committee
Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Attendees:

Nancy Gilberg, Micaela Gugliemi, Carol Hautau, Shelby Hypes, Tony Keck, Melynn Nuite, Julie Rose, Kristin Woodruff, Susan Yochelson, Geri Yuhas

Absent:

Beth Gillett, Erin Huggard, Lynn Murray, John Roberts, Liz Vago

Guest:

Elaine, SSU student observer

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from April 2, 2019, meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Repair Café Debrief

- Overall the event went well. People continue to be happy, we gained more tinkerers and more helpers thanks to PEM sustainability event, and Salem Film Festival.
- We need to review sewing: spending two hours with one person is not our goal.
- We need to emphasize that people should bring repair parts and that three repairs per person is the limit.
- Tony will look into acquiring some electrical switches and other parts to have on hand that people can buy. Melynn will see if Winer Brothers is interested in partnering.
- Susan's workshop at PEM event suggests we might consider doing similar workshops or repair demonstrations.

PEM Sustainability Event

- This went well; both PEM and Helpsy were very cooperative. People brought stuff all the way from Boston; some made multiple trips.
- It was a good opportunity to do some outreach and tell people about the Swap N Drop.
- Gained several new followers, including Kate Black, the day's speaker and author of *Magnifico*.

New Business

Swap N Drop

- We hope to have it on the Common; a decision will be made by 11:00am on Friday. If it rains, we will be in the Community Life Center.
- Volunteers are being asked to arrive at 9:30am. Correct hours are 10:00am to 12:00pm. Truck will arrive at 9:00am; We need to be wrapped up so truck can leave by 1:00pm.
- The online response has been phenomenal, perhaps due to the Marie Kondo affect, so we are hoping for a good turnout.

Subcommittee Updates

Butt Bins

- There are two new butt bins, one at the Common and one on Lafayette St. These need to be put on the map and the map undated in general and possibly posted online.

- Melynn has provided some of her neighbors with coffee and soda cans with lids. She has told them if they leave the cans (dry) on her porch she will collect and send in for recycling. This could be a good story for newsletter.

Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance

- Micaela and Julie met with Dave Greenbaum. Letters are going out in two weeks. Dave connected with a group that works with businesses called RecyclingWorks; they will send out as well.
- The program went into effect in January, but because notification is so late, haulers will only pay 5 months. We're not advertising/enforcing, etc. as nothing in place to do so at this point.

Straw Reduction

- This program is progressing, much of the work on this is being done by email due to the difficulty of bringing people together for a meeting.
- The focus for now is on coffee shops as there are too many restaurants (ca. 300) to tackle at once and because coffee shops have a high take-out volume. Micaela has made a list of about 40 coffee shops. She will distribute the proposed letter and graphic to committee members who can take to various coffee shops.
- Our plan is to promote those who are doing the right thing.

School Recycling Grant

- Micaela and Julie met with custodians over pizza. We are making progress; recycling has moved from 17% to 24% overall, and contamination levels have decreased.
- One of their main concerns is a new requirement that schools give out breakfast bags with juice boxes, etc. These must be trashed. While this program is operating in just a few schools now, it will be City wide in the fall and all kids will be given breakfast bags.
- This needs to be everyone's responsibility. Custodians are pretty much on board, and we need the support of administration and teachers as well to foster a better attitude toward recycling.

Waste Reduction Coordinator Updates

- Yard waste pick-up delays made for a crazy week of April 21. There was more yard waste than Waste Management expected, and more trucks were needed. People should call WM re bulk and missed pick-ups first, but WM's customer service does get all See Click Fix reports.
- Transfer station opened 4/20
- Biggest contamination problem remains plastic film, especially inside Amazon book mailers.
- This spurred discussion of what we can and cannot take to the grocery store: Air pillows, dry cleaner bags, bread bags, paper towels, drink bottles and, yes, even cereal box liners are ok; bubble wrap is not.
- Bags that contained frozen food cannot be recycled, nor can any black plastic.

Social Media

- Nancy reported no big leap in FaceBook likes; we are now at 2,214. We have 380 Instagram followers.
- Popular posts have been Guinness's phasing out plastic rings for six packs and the fact that Black Earth can use bike inner tubes.

- No one is managing the butt bin recycling page. Melynn moved and Carol seconded combining this with our other social media pages. Passed unanimously.
- Nancy is seeking possible posts, preferably humorous, as these are very well received.

Newsletter

- Susan sent the newsletter out today (4/30); articles included options for moving out and the Marie Kondo movement. We discussed the closing article each month be "Ask Salem Recycles."
- She requested more prominent sign-up message on our website home page.

Miscellaneous

- Tara Gallagher at SSU is working with Bay State Textiles to be ready for moving out.
- Observing the custodian at the CLC suggests that custodians could use more training regarding recycling. Need to find out how many people this would involve.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Shelby Hypes