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| **Kimberley Driscoll**  **Mayor** | City of Salem, Massachusetts |

 SalemRecycles Minutes

April 5, 2022 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Carol Hautau, Geri Yuhas, Bonnie Bain, Jen Birenbach

Absent: Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Shannon Chretien

Guest: Bruce Cohen, Andy Varela (Councillor Ward 7), Maegan Willey

March 2022 minutes were voted on by roll call vote.

**Old Business**

* Repair Cafe - Saturday March 12 - 9-12 - Micaela reviewed feedback from repair cafe - stated most participants were new, mainly positive feedback. Geri noted the desire to add more walk-in appointments with the understanding that sign ups are taken first. Kristin noted the challenge of the sign ups not aligning with the time it takes to fix an item. Jen inquired what else the Essex Tech students would be able to fix. Micaela noted it would be great to keep them busy. Micaela noted 2 repair cafes are required per year for the current grant, the committee has hosted 3 per year in the past.

**New Business**

* Next Repair Cafe - Discussion related to when to schedule the next event - summer vs. fall. Micaela noted prior to the pandemic, the dates were consistent in the spring/fall. Kristin noted feedback from volunteers after the first Repair Cafe at CLC was that they would be willing to do more/more frequent repair cafes. Geri inquired if the plan would be to continue to hold this event at the CLC; Micaela stated this is very likely. Micaela stated more discussion would be helpful at future meetings.
* Book Swap - Saturday May 7 - Micaela noted she has considered 3 vendors: More Than Words, CMRK (bought Big Brother, Big Sister), Discover Books. Discover Books is the only vendor available on a Saturday for the event. Micaela spoke with Dave Greenbaum from the Health Department regarding COIVD19 restrictions necessary and was told there are no specific restrictions. Micaela stated the CLC is available Saturday, May 7th and will confirm that drop off can happen Friday night. Geri agreed no limitations need to be in place and suggested putting children’s tables outside, weather dependent. Micaela stated she will send an email to gauge volunteer interest, draft a press release, and invite students from Salem Academy Charter School as volunteers. Bruce inquired about how the swap works, Micaela explained the process of swap. Micaela stated she will follow up with Discover Books to clarify what items they will/will not take besides books. Carol inquired which committee members would be available. Geri reviewed process: Friday 3p set up, 4-7p drop off. Saturday 9a-1p. Micaela noted 2 shifts of volunteers needed (830a-11a, 11a-1p). Kristin clarified approximately 12-15 volunteers per shift on Saturday would be required.
* Next Styrofoam Day - Micaela stated she received email from Erina requesting Saturday, June 11th from 9a to 1p in Beverly (likely at the Beverly high school). Erina is confirming the date with Tommy from Save That Stuff. Micaela noted that there will not need to be many volunteers (per city) at this event. Micaela stated feedback from the last event indicated the event could be shorter.
* Swap and Drop - Geri inquired whether this event would be on our agenda this year. Micaela noted this may conflict with the spring book swap. Committee members reviewed the process from the past: items were sorted into categories, placed on tarps in the Common, and community members could take items as they wanted. Bruce mentioned the Marblehead Swap Shed and inquired whether this would be possible in Salem. Micaela stated the DPW would not be able to host/manage this and would have to research when/where this might be possible. Jen shared this also happens in Acton, MA. Carol inquired whether the buildings at Mack Park or the garage at Forest River Park. The Salem Public Library hosts a “Library of Things” but there are not many items here. Micaela suggested adding this item to the agenda for next month.
* Membership Recruitment – Jen is an official member, Bruce will be finalized after this meeting.
* Styrofoam / Compostable Ordinance - Councillor Varela noted this is moving forward and will move to committee soon. He also noted the language will likely add straws to the list. He noted how this ordinance can expand in the future and not only include polystyrene. He noted the next City Council meeting is Tuesday at 6:30p. Jen inquired whether there has been any pushback. Councillor Varela noted only related to potential impact on Salem’s businesses and related to specific language clarifying this currently only impacts polystyrene. He noted there will need to be some education to businesses that may be impacted by this ordinance.
* Textile / Mattress Recycling - Micaela noted the ban will take effect November 2022. She noted Salem is likely in a good place regarding textiles, but mattress recycling may be more of a challenge. Micaela noted the message will be promoting the recycling options and that mattresses cannot go in the trash after this date. Micaela confirmed all types of textiles are collected by Helpsy and in the Bay State Textile bins at all schools.

**Task Force Updates**

* Green Salem A-Z Guide - Jen noted she is currently working on “books” and the whole process will take a while to review. Carol confirmed that the process to update the information will take time.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update - Micaela noted she attended Mass Recycle Conference and will plan to share content. She shared highlights: behavior change, taking baseline. Discussion topics were related to mattress recycling, how the pandemic has impacted NYC trash, the way Cambridge has promoted composting. The Great Salem Clean Up will be on Sunday, April 24th. Thursday, April 7th will be a meeting with the mayor to discuss weekly recycling. She stated the financial offset for this may be charging for specific bulk items. Michael Sulprizio, Business Manager for the Engineering Department has resigned and his position has yet to be filled. Micaela noted rechargeable batteries will now be collected in her office instead of at the Department of Health. Micaela inquired whether any committee members would be interested in touring Old Stone Mills in Adams, MA. Carol noted the website did not indicate many items for recycling, the drive is also too long.

**Correspondence**

* Social media - Micaela reviewed recent social media posts.
* Electronic newsletter - Topics book swap, collecting/re-using seedling/plant pots. Jen inquired what category to list these as in the A-Z guide. Jen suggested adding what will be banned on November 1. Jen noted litter very apparent this time of year and suggested this as a newsletter topic. Micaela noted “Keep Massachusetts Beautiful” will send community members a trash grabber if they sign up. Jen inquired how to promote individual clean-up efforts. Councillor Varela noted Lincoln, MA has instituted a single use water bottle ban and offered to discuss in the future - the committee agreed.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements
  + Carol noted the committee has been invited to the Salem Farmers Market from June to October in Derby Square. The Committee would need to choose dates to participate.