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

 SalemRecycles Minutes

Nov 2, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Erin Huggard, Shannon Chretien, Cameron Fullerton, Carol Hautau, Nancy Gilberg, Beth Gillett

Absent: Geri Yuhas, Liz Vago, Bonnie Bain

Guest speaker: Gail Sowerder Garron - Municipal Assistance Coordinator - MA DPP, office located in Beverly

Guests: Danny, Mari

**Guest Speaker**

Started in her role in Feb 2021, previously in a role similar to Micaela in Danvers, MA.

Q & A:

1. *Will DEP be sponsoring any webinars where municipalities could share success stories and problem areas?* Yes. Second annual Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Palooza in Feb. Webinars: Ask me anything Nov 15th, Nov 17th. Volunteer highlight who have promoted waste reduction Nov 16. Plastic bag recycling Nov 18. Working to create regional groups. Beth reminded the group that Liz provided a link to these events and suggested Micaela promote the volunteer highlight to the schools.
2. *Should we anticipate any changes in MA regulations regarding trash, recyclables or compost?* Yes. MA disposal bans will happen Nov 2022. Gail noted lowering of volume of compost from 1 ton to 0.5 tons and mattresses and textiles will be banned from trash collection. Gail noted specialized recycling companies will be collecting these items and are still to be hired. Beth inquired about what will happen to these items. Gail noted the goal will be to keep the items local to be reused and/or repurposed.
3. *Do you think beverage cartons will ever be recyclable curbside again?* Gail noted the way cartons are processed is more of a market demand question vs the way it can be recycled and noted this will need to be looked at in the future.
4. *Pizza box instructions have evolved from "no grease," to "a little grease is okay," to "recycle even greasy boxes." Is the latter still the best advice?* DPP has most recently said cardboard is valuable and boxes are recyclable. Gail noted remove all plastic, paper, food (grease is ok!).
5. *Do you think our Bottle Bill will be updated? Are you able to speak about the pros and cons, or is this not your area of expertise?* Gail noted plastic bottles being redeemable decreases the profit of the recycling collectors.
6. *Waste Management advises us to keep educational messaging simple, to not overwhelm and not frustrate residents. Do you agree with this philosophy?* Yes, keep education simple to prevent overwhelming recipients. She also noted sending different repeated messages, in small doses.
7. *Are the worst contaminants still tanglers - plastic bags, wires and hoses, textiles?* Yes.
8. *Recycle Smart advises that frozen food boxes are not recyclable because they have an inner coating of plastic. Are there SOME frozen boxes that aren't coated, and if yes, is there a special symbol that tells consumers they are recyclable?* Gail noted they are not differentiated and when in doubt to throw it out.
9. *What municipal grants are available?*
   1. SMRP grants no longer happening
   2. RDP Dividend points program- Points are awarded for community waste reduction efforts like Repair Cafes, compost drop offs, 35 gallon trash totes etc.

Oct 2021 minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**New Business**

* Fall Repair Cafe - December 4th - 9-12
  + Micaela noted 9 Tinkerers confirmed, 1 tentative. Shannon noted one additional seamstress may volunteer, Micaela requested she contact Micaela. Nancy inquired about wood repair. Micaela stated a press release will go out at the end of the week. Micaela noted she will do a walk through to preview the space and retrieve supplies from Bridge at 211. Beth inquired about adding “bring own supplies” to flier; Nancy suggested adding to the appointment confirmation email from Micaela. Kristin suggested limiting appointments to one 30 minutes appointment only for simplicity. Nancy inquired if the committee would need to set up the room the day of; Micaela responded she will set up the night before.
* Fall Textile Drive - November 22nd 8a-1p (Saturday before Thanksgiving)
  + Micaela has confirmed with Riley Plaza and Helpsy. Micaela has 5 volunteers in the early morning and 4 in the late morning/ afternoon. Shifts are 7:30a-10:15a and 10:30a-1p. Shannon and Nancy signed up for the afternoon shift. Beth suggested Micaela confirm that enough volunteers can lift textile bags on each shift.
* TerraCycle collection
  + November 22nd 8a-1p during Textile Drive
  + Permanent collection bins are at City Hall. Micaela noted she may change the signage. She noted she will also do a press release after the Textile Drive and may consider changing the location with easier parking if there’s not a lot of participation.
* Batteries
  + Micaela stated she did not get any feedback regarding battery guide and is still open to updates regarding battery recycling.
* Styrofoam Collection
  + Micaela contacted the City of Beverly and they are interested in participating in an event. Micaela also contacted Gold Circuit, but they have not responded. Micaela stated she will contact Save that Stuff as they are another company that collects Styrofoam and are a possibility if Gold Circuit does not return her calls.
* Membership Recruitment
  + Micaela invited 2 guests to ask questions of committee members. Danny inquired about what to do with waste and/or recycling that doesn’t fit in normal trash day pick up, especially around the holidays? Nancy noted the city’s overflow bags go on sale in December and she notes suggestions on social media. Beth also noted the committee has a newsletter to highlight these items.

**Task Force Updates**

* Green Salem A-Z Guide
  + Task force was not able to meet. Update to be done at the next meeting.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update
  + Micaela noted contamination decreased from 8.9% in 2020 to 8.3% in 2021. Micaela noted a map with contamination areas will be emailed.
  + Micaela inquired about what the committee members would like to do in December – a meeting or holiday party. Micaela stated she will contact Salem Sound Coach Watch and other spaces to find availability.
  + Micaela shared a tentative 2022 Sustainability Events calendar and suggested the committee discuss at the next meeting. The spring textile drive and potential Swap and Drop were discussed.
  + Nancy inquired if Micaela has contacted the Board of Health regarding an indoor Book Swap. Micaela stated she has not yet but plans to.
  + Nancy inquired if masks will be required for the textile drive. Micaela noted that masks have not been required outside and does not believe so. Kristin suggested there will not be crowds at the event and it is low risk.

**Correspondence**

* Social Media Update
  + Per Nancy, popular on FB: recyclable Amazon mailer, seasonal posts, candy wrapper collection at Unpacked Living. All 2021 events are currently posted.
  + Carol inquired if Amazon mailer needs to be requested. Shannon suggested it does not need to be requested as she received without requesting.

* Electronic newsletter
  + Micaela noted Bonnie may not be available to do a December newsletter and Micaela will do a short newsletter with upcoming events. Nancy suggested Thanksgiving and Christmas suggestions too.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements