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

 SalemRecycles Minutes

June 1, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Geri Yuhas, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau, Dan Shapiro, Susan Yochelson, Bonnie Bain, Shannon Chretien, Melynn Nuite, Erin Huggard, Beth Gillett, Liz Vago, Tony Keck

Absent: Cam Fullerton

May 2021 minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**Old Business**

* Micaela noted the committee will need a member to volunteer for the role of chair, starting in August.

**New Business**

* September Free Book Day - Micaela inquired about whether fall book swap will be in person and or a Free Book Day. Nancy suggested finding out if the Community Center will be willing to host. Kristin suggested inquiring how many volunteers will be available. Geri suggested there may need to be a limit on the number of people in the building at one time. Beth suggested limiting donations to the day before only to limit traffic and need for volunteers. Potential date: Saturday Sept 18.
  + Action item: Micaela to confirm availability with Community Center
* Food Truck Festival - Sept 25-26
  + Micaela inquired if the committee would like to participate in the event. Carol noted she would like to participate. Susan noted composting promotion was well received and worth doing again. Melynn also noted composting went well and suggested checking with Black Earth to determine rates and/or if another company is available. Kristin noted there may be 2 companies available on the north shore ([OffBeet](http://www.offbeetcompost.com/plans) and [Bootstrap](https://bootstrapcompost.com/)). Bonnie noted Bootstrap Composting rates are approx $11/month. Beth suggested finding out if the vendors will have compostable items. Nancy noted this event would also need a lot of volunteers and would be helpful to confirm what items would be accepted ahead of time. Both Nancy and Carol stated they favored limited the items collected to food, napkins, and perhaps straw papers.
* Fall Repair Cafe
  + Micaela noted the potential date for November 6th for the next Repair Cafe and will request Tony confirm this date with the Bridge at 211.
* Compost Promotion
  + Micaela noted she has drafted a newsletter noting composting options. Nancy inquired about the number of Black Earth customers and the number of residents using Mack Park. Micaela noted 183 residents signed up to use Mack Park and 730 residents for Black Earth.
* Eco Bricks
  + Micaela noted the “bricks” are water bottles filled with non-recyclable soft plastic. The bottles are then used to create bricks. Nancy noted she has been contacted by the organizer at the high school and her hesitancy to have a further discussion. Susan noted she has not followed up with the organizer but is generally in favor of it. Tony inquired about whether the “bricks” have been studied to determine if there are any long-term risks of using these as building materials. Melynn inquired about how/where the “bricks” are used. Susan volunteered to research these questions. Dan suggested presenting this as a topic for discussion vs. as an “approval” from the committee. Kristin inquired if this is one company that has a process and can answer these questions vs. the high school project doing their own thing. Susan suggested doing more research to be better informed about the process. Carol identified the website for the Global Ecobrick Alliance - ecobricks.org.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update
  + Micaela shared that someone from the Common Neighborhood association contacted her regarding having a neighborhood wide yard sale.
  + Micaela and Carol met to package and mail TerraCycle items collected to this point. Bonnie reports 1,100 points in the account. Carol suggested the committee will need to decide how to donate the money collected from TerraCycle - she suggested Mack Park, food pantry, schools. Micaela suggested the Committee vote in the fall.
  + Micaela noted she is working on the Recycling Dividends Program grant.
  + Micaela noted she is applying for a federal composting grant. She noted she has connected with Kerry Murphy who has been working on the Mack Park Food Farm to discuss the grant.
  + Micaela provided an update from Greif - they are no longer accepting newspaper for recycling. Liz inquired if Black Earth accepts newspaper. Nancy noted Black Earth’s website suggests: “for wrapping food, please recycle otherwise”. Susan inquired if recycling is still required at all residential buildings. Geri confirmed and stated that this has not been a priority for the Board of Health during the COVID19 pandemic but is still on their radar.

**Correspondence**

* Social Media Update
  + Per Nancy: FB 2,644 followers. Current posts: photos from textile drive, upcoming e-waste event. Nancy suggested creating a sub-committee to support content for social media. Shannon volunteered.
  + Liz suggested adding guest speakers to the Committee agenda. Liz suggested connecting with other City of Salem committees that have similar initiatives (suggested SERC, Salem Sound Coastwatch). Micaela also noted Waste Management as a possibility. Nancy noted Tara Gallagher from Salem State University. Bonnie suggested the owner of Unpacked Living in Beverly and the Keep Mass Beautiful website blogger.
  + Liz and Nancy suggested resuming a committee potluck to see each other in person. Carol suggested the function hall and/or pavilion on Winter Island to watch a movie and/or have a potluck. Micaela stated will look into options for a July 6th potluck and requested the committee members email if that date does not work.
  + Geri inquired of the status of Helpsy curbside textile recycling. Micaela noted that it has started and will request a regular update of pickups.
  + Liz noted a $5,000 grant for “re-use projects”.

* Electronic newsletter
  + Micaela asked for suggestions for newsletter topics.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements
  + Nancy noted the Food Truck Festival: Sept 25-26.
  + Micaela noted e-waste Sept 25.
  + Melynn noted she will resign from the committee after serving for 5 years.
  + Carol is partnering with Salem Coast Soundwatch to do a “pepperweed pull” Friday June 4th at 9:30am on the Salem/Marblehead line.