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| **Logo  Description automatically generated****Kimberley Driscoll** **Mayor** | City of Salem, Massachusetts |

 SalemRecycles Minutes

September 7, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Carol Hautau, Beth Gillett, Bonnie Bain, Cameron Fullerton, Shannon Chretien, Liz Vago, Nancy Gilberg

Absent: Susan Yochelson, Erin Huggard, Kristin Woodruff, Geri Yuhas

Guest: Ed Pacek, Waste Management

The meeting started with Ed Pacek presenting about recycling markets and what happens to recyclables in Salem. Our recycling is collected and delivered to WM Billerica (MRF) Material recovery facility. It is sorted into categories and baled for resale around the world. Mixed paper is the most recycled item in Salem. Glass is broken down into tiny pieces after going through the MRF and it is used as road base for new road construction. In New England there are no more glass re-bottlers. Glass is very costly to recycle. It is cheaper for companies to use virgin glass. HDPDN is $20 per ton right now (plastic gallon milk jugs). Mixed paper, cardboard and plastic pricing has been moving in the right direction over the past 12-18 months. Liz asked about the price of cardboard could be result of Covid? Ed replied that there is a huge boom in need for cardboard due to Covid, recycled cardboard is used for the middle layer of cardboard boxes. WM Billerica building is a former Boston Globe building, started in 2013. Runs three shifts a day. Processes 108,000 tons a year, 38 tons an hour. Rope, hose, bags, plastic films that get tangled is always a problem. Beth asked about plastic bags. Salem doesn’t take them in curbside, but commercially they can be recycled. Plastic bags have to be recycled in a certain way. Tiny plastic bottles are not recycled in curbside because they fall through the machine, even though they material is actually recyclable. ESG – Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance. Companies look for ways to increase their ESG rating. They can use more recycled products to increase the rating. Currently recycling is generating revenue. 2021 audit was completed last week. We should get the results shortly. Volume has increased. 7:22 Ed’s presentation ended.

Meeting started at 7:25

August 2021 minutes of past meeting were approved by all

**New Business**

* September Free Book Day – Saturday September 18th. Micaela suggested a social media blast and Liz agreed and mentioned that you don’t have to be on the map to participate. Nancy asked if people have been good about stating what type of book they will be placing out. Micaela stated they have been stating their books genres. Last time there was late sign ups, so hopefully we will get some more late ones. We discussed putting more fliers out or sharing them virtually.
* Liz – Noticed on the website that Tony is no longer on the committee and listed as emeritus now. Micaela confirmed that he has stepped down
* Fall Repair Café – the Bridge at 211 is booked for the first weekend in December, Dec 4th and confirmed at the Bridge. Beth – How is the Bridge going to handle the event. Should we change the event to the community center? Will we require appointments? Liz – We shouldn’t re-neg on the bridge because we already committed and have a partnership with the bridge. Micaela suggested maybe less tinkerers to have less people inside. Carol noted that there is probably not any air circulation in the bridge. Would not be personally comfortable there. Beth – we need to understand what their policy is and what their limits are. Liz the other option is to let the bridge know that we are in a flexible situation and maybe need to change the location based on the current situation. Micaela to look at what their requirements are and what events they have had in the last year
**Action Item**: Micaela will check the community center availability and ask the Bridge what their protocols for an event will be and check with tinkerers.
* Fall Textile Drive – Micaela stated that Helpsy is available for the textile drive the Saturday before thanksgiving. Need some social media boosting. We will see if we have less people attend due to the new curbside pick up program. Terracycle collection will be at the Helpsy drive.
* TerraCycle Collection - Bins have been ordered and looking for a status of the bins. They will be set up in the City Hall annex for drop off location all year round. Cameron – can a school get a bin for a pen collection? Micaela - you don’t need an official bin, you can collect in anything and then send to city hall or directly teracycle – includes, pens, dry erase markers, markers, art supplies. Bonnie – will send the Terracycle list to the group
**Action item**: Micaela will check on status of bins
* Batteries and Spring Book Event were deferred until next meeting.

**Community Outreach**

* Nancy - festival happening at the Willows this weekend. Sustainability event FB page create E-love-ate. Micaela asked if we can have a table? Liz - do we have a contact person? Nancy – we don’t know who they are, or anything about the event. Micaela - suggested to send a message to the Facebook page from the Salem recycling page. Nancy will message the page. Liz – who will be there? NERC (north east recycling council)? Micaela - will reach out to Esmerelda on the sustainability team for the city and see if she is aware of the event.
* WM update – audit was going on over the last few weeks and we should have results soon.
* Micaela - started working on the 2022 trash and recycling calendar
* Liz asked about the butt bin program, people on the committee were not included in the changes to the new stickers on all the bins. Nancy - our committee started the initiative and is disappointed that we weren’t consulted on the logo change. Micaela - Salem coast watch intern created new logos and sent them to her. Micaela never officially approved the logos to go out. Liz - also disappointed that the change wasn’t brought to the group and asked that Micaela bring things like this to us in the future. Beth – should we reach out to SSCW to be brought in
**Action Item:** Micaela will reach out to Barbara Warren and see if we can still be involved. Beth asked are they recycling the butts through teracycle? That was the original plan. If they aren’t then do we want to be involved. Micaela - lets add it to the agenda for the next meeting. Thinks they are just throwing them away. Liz – if it is an anti-litter campaign it is still valuable but not recycling. Beth - can anyone sponsor a butt bin? Micaela - sponsors usually send to teracycle. Thinks we do have a small credit from people who sent the butts into Teracycle. We will add this to the next agenda.
* 2857 followers on FB page. Nancy talked about bulk item reminders, plastics do and don’t, grief update got a lot of views.
* Newsletter – partner spotlight, Bonnie asked for ideas of people to interview. Nancy suggested that Bonnie add a tidbit about recycling special items to the newsletter

**Other Business**

* November meeting night is election day. Can we push that meeting back a week? We will vote at next meeting.