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

 SalemRecycles Minutes

March 1, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Carol Hautau, Shannon Chretien, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Geri Yuhas, Jen Birenbach

Absent: Bonnie Bain

Feb 2022 minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**New Business**

* Repair Cafe - Saturday March 12 - 9-12 - Micaela noted furniture repair appointments are booked, some appointments available for sewing and for general repairs. Micaela noted she has partially filled out the registration forms to streamline the process. Micaela noted she has enough committee members volunteering - Micaela, Carol, Kristin, and Nancy are signed up. Shannon and Jen stated they may be available.
* Book Swap - Saturday April 2 - Micaela stated this event is possible to do inside and inquired whether the committee would like to proceed as in previous years or with COVID19 friendly modifications. Kristin voiced hesitancy returning to pre-COVID volume vs instituting some volume mitigation procedures. Jen inquired about an alternative outdoor venue. Geri suggested masks could be required and no volume limit should be put in place. Geri suggested it may be a self-limited volume related to COVID, Jen suggested the opposite may be possible. Geri suggested limiting the event to adults only. Nancy suggested moving to a warmer month to accommodate possibly having the event outdoors, even partially. The committee agreed and set a new date for May 7.
* Membership Recruitment - Micaela confirmed eight current committee members, six open seats. Micaela suggested promoting at the Repair Cafe. Shannon suggested posting on social media the open position. Nancy suggested a meet and greet event worked in the past to recruit new members. Jen inquired about the ideal number of committee members.
* Styrofoam / Composting Ordinance - Micaela recapped ordinance being proposed by Councillor Varela. The ordinance would ban Styrofoam and require that takeout containers would need to be recyclable or compostable. Nancy inquired if this would be take-out only or whether it would also apply to schools and if one of the challenges to passing the ordinance would be a reasonable cost replacement to current options. Shannon inquired whether other towns are currently following a similar policy. Micaela answered that Rockport is possibly doing this. Jen mentioned a sustainability team has worked at a school in Vermont. Shannon noted 54 MA towns (in 12 counties) have a Styrofoam ban from the Sierra Club article. Nancy noted a lot of black plastic take out containers are currently utilized. Shannon inquired whether a black plastic collection event would be possible. Micaela notes she is unaware of any companies that can recycle it.

**Task Force Updates**

* Green Salem A-Z Guide - Carol noted the Task Force have been working on the first 15 categories and noted that this is an ongoing work in progress. Nancy inquired how to provide to Micaela as she is the only one able to update the website. Jen inquired about adding social media swap / giveaway sites to the Guide.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update - Micaela noted she attended the Witchcraft Heights career fair. Nancy inquired about upcoming events that Micaela plans to attend. Micaela stated she attended a webinar about the upcoming mattress and textile ban (going into effect in November). Micaela stated she, Michael Sulprizio, David Knowlton and the Mayor would all likely be involved in how this ordinance will go into effect and what companies to work with. Micaela stated UTEC and Green Mattress are currently the only companies that currently recycle mattresses. Kristin inquired about mattress companies taking mattresses as part of delivery services.

**Correspondence**

* Social media - Nancy noted a desire to promote when the FB hits 3,000 followers. She stated the Repair Cafe and electronic recycling event are currently posted. The recent post with the most likes and shares was related to Home Depot battery recycling. Nancy requested committee members share content to post on social media as they see it. Nancy inquired about the DPW shed for community usage. Micaela suggested community members continue to talk with staff at DPW rather than dropping directly at the shed.
* Electronic newsletter - Kristin requested a topic of collecting repurposing seedling pots for the Salem Community Gardens seedling sale for future/spring newsletter. Jen suggested promoting utilizing the audio books through the library.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements
  + Nancy inquired about whether the committee would pick a date for another Styrofoam recycling event. Micaela stated she has a call with Erina O’Keefe from Beverly about scheduling the next event.
  + Nancy inquired about tracking / documentation related to TerraCycle. Micaela noted only a small volume has been generated since the textile recycling event. Carol noted less contamination in the ‘oral care’ collection. Carol suggested adding a collection at the Repair Cafe. Nancy suggested highlighting one specific item at a time, instead of entire collection options for newsletter and social media.
  + Jen inquired whether Waste Management has the possibility to collect and recycle bulk/rigid plastic items.
  + Kristin shared that the Salem Community Garden opens registration to new gardeners on March 15th.