



# Salem Recycles Committee

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

6:30pm, City Hall Annex 1st Floor, Conference Room

Appointed Members: Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnell, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer

City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

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### **Attending:**

Appointed Members: Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox (remote), Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Sandy O'Donnell, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer

Guests: Wayne Spritz, Swampscott

Absent: Daniell Hepting, Janelle Rolke

### **Recycling Committee Mission Statement**

The mission of SalemRecycles, a committee appointed by the Mayor, is to reduce trash tonnage in the City of Salem by increasing recycling, diverting reusable items, and motivating city stakeholders through education and information.

### **Approve past Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve: Jen; Second: Carol

Roll call Vote: unanimous approval

### **Book Swap & TerraCycle Collection Event (3/23)**

Janelle's contribution:

- 558 attendees
- Incredible volunteer turnout Friday & Saturday. Special thanks to those who came Sunday
- Handful of Salem Academy students volunteered Fri+Sat
- We were not notified Discover Books is no longer in business. So they never showed up. On Sunday, we rented a Uhaul & gathered committee members (and their families) to put back together boxes and pack books into the Uhaul. Nancy left a VM with More Than Words, who called Janelle first thing Monday morning to arrange a free pickup! They picked up Monday afternoon, transferred all books to their truck. All boxes were delivered to the transfer station recycling.
- We will need to secure More Than Words for the September Book Swap and see what tweaks we may need to make to the accepted items list and the book swap process (will they accept cardboard if we ask them ahead of time?)

Future Planning:

- With frequent flooding of bridge street, should the book swap be held in a different location?

- The parking lot gets VERY full for about 1.5 hrs during the event. Maybe consider hosting this event at a school with larger parking lot?
- The amount of book drop-offs that occur before 4 PM Friday is high. The CLC does not love this.
- We advertise that the book swap begins at 10 (but with donation drop off starting at 9 AM, people expect the swap to begin at 9) Because we don't want to create a bottleneck at 10 AM, we have been allowing folks to come in starting 9/9:15. Janelle thinks we should adjust the book swap start time to 9 AM.

Committee discussion: Issues are clearly connected to the location being the open CLC. High school, or any school really, could be a good location- need to scope that out to see if it's even possible

*ACTION: Janelle to reach out to school district to see if a school is available as a Bookshop location in September - E-Waste may occur on same day as BookSwap, so High school may not be an option due to that.*

### **Zero Waste Week Events (3/20-3/24)**

Janelle's Notes:

- 3 Salem businesses participated in the waste assessments (Salem YMCA, Life Alive, and Salem Five Bank).
- First ever free document shredding event went smoothly approximately 50+ cars attended. Many requests for this to become a regular event (once or twice a year?) cost is \$200/hour we used Shred-It. Secure, on site shredding.
- SSU Swap - huge success swapping books, clothing, and school supplies
- 13+ Worm bin demonstrations by Stacy Kilb at multiple Salem Public Schools on March 22nd
- Clothing Swap + movie night at Witchcraft Elementary School March 22nd
- Electronic recycling (despite the biz arriving about an hour late from NH due to winter weather) went well! (data to follow)
- Sunday litter cleanup was cold, but extremely productive collecting 372lbs of litter in just 2 hours at Gallows Hill.

### **MassRecycle Conference 3/19**

Joel & Wayne Spritz:

Joel, Janelle and Wayne Spritz (Swampscott Swap) attended the conference

Joel thought it went well, submitted the topics: food diversion in schools, producer responsibilities, composting, building const. reuse, PFAS issues, safety & OSHA for transfer stations, better producer legislation, disaster planning and recovery

Disaster planning and recovery- is there a plan with DEP? Or make it up? If there is a plan, the DEP will follow the plan. Storage, Moving materials, transfer station (& size), volume of materials, where materials go and who gets it there, etc. Having a City of Salem plan submitted to the DEP would help in the event of future disasters, especially storm disasters.

Committee members remember dumpsters being set out for citizens to throw away damaged materials. It should be determined if this is within the Recycling Committee's mission.

*ACTION: Janelle - check in and see what the City may or may not have in place regarding disaster planning and materials from that - and determine if it's within our purview (Demi has resources for Janelle if she needs them)*

### **Repair Café & TerraCycle Collection Event (5/18) Demi**

Repair cafe team is up and running - checking in with fixers to see who can come before taking reservations - Demi is checking with folks on the last cafe's waitlist before signing up new people  
Facebook event went live today- Demi to get Nancy info for sign up connections

### **Conversation with Guest: Swampscott SWAC Chair Wayne Spritz**

Solid Waste Advisory Committee was started in 2020 (town of 5,500 households)  
Inspired by Select Board changing to one 35gal barrel per household and the fallout - may not have had public input - committee formed to evaluate town waste management - Waste is single largest line item in town budget - created an Enterprise Fund only for solid waste - SWAC was able to see exactly what it costs the town - SWAC constantly evaluating data - Created spreadsheets to track actions -  
Adopted the Mass mission: 30% reduction by 2030" Started by reporting monthly, now reporting quarterly, Graph: Solid waster Trending for the town 2007-2023 showing changes in waste and recycling and composting over time. Includes Black Earth data, mattresses, etc. Committee feels they will hit their 30% reduction in a few years if this trend continues.

Salem's waste hauler contractor assesses the worth of the scrap commodities in the waste stream and shares the profit with the City of Salem - uncommon contract but a good tool for driving diversion.  
Swampscott uses different vendors who don't track contamination. This impacts contract negotiations.

SWAC wants to expand education- farmers markets, schools, etc. Composting ability is a priority & they are contracted with Black Earth. They have at least 3 composting drop off sites around town, small land use, allowing for a free option. Gave out a 200-300 bins to seniors in the Senior Center.

Street Audits: who was using the extra bags above the barrel. Learned most people don't need a second bag and when they do it's rare and few.

Conducted a town wide survey: of 15,000 received 950 responses (>6% response rate)

Regional Coordination & Learning: SWAC is interested in best practices, who uses what hauler & how it's going, etc.

Swampscott had a standing plastic bag & straw ban, but then they passed rules for the town food businesses: compostable must be certified, some plastics no longer recyclable, all vendors use a "warning: don't heat left overs in plastic container," no hot items in #1 plastic (PET,). If they're going to have plastics it needs to be recyclable. Utilizing the Save the Stuff movement: limit take out utensils to ask only

Composting in schools:

1 high school, middle, & soon to be 1 elementary. Largest issue: contamination. Strong environmental group that helps with composting in schools lead by Sam, who visited our SRC in the past.

Regional Round Table -

SWAC is hoping to set up a meeting the last week of April for 4-5 communities talking to each other. Interest has been shown from Nahant, Marblehead, Beverly, Salem, etc. Lynn is interested in growing their recycling management/services. SWAC has been meeting with Lynn officials on this. SWAC wants to build this round table as a political block of sorts to engage and empower.

Boat Wrap:

Salem Harbor Master does something with boat wrap, but he doesn't want to advertise.

Marblehead bales it and take it somewhere to be recycled

Swampscott has a free program collecting it and they deliver it to Marblehead

**ACTION:** Check on what's happening in Salem and determine if it can be expanded and systematized

**Trex Bags:** We have a backlog of full bags that need to be brought to Market Basket! (Janelle did hold off from members picking up last week, but we're back on!)

*ACTION: Cameron offered his pick up truck and will coordinate with Catherine to deliver bags to MB. They may need to be weighed first, check. Catherine likes to take a pic upon delivery.*

**Library Trex Bin:** Can someone from the committee be assigned to monitor the library Trex bin and empty it as needed? It is filling very quickly (every other week, at least!)

*ACTION: Catherine can monitor Library trex bin*

**Living Green Expo May 11th at the Old Town Hall:**

Need volunteers for the table (talk all things recycling, trash, & increase curbside composting accounts). There will be items to raffle off.

Shift 1:

9:45-11:30

1) Janelle Rolke      2) Bruce      3) Cameron

Shift 2: (Janelle can help 2nd shift volunteers return tabling materials to Annex storage)

11:30-1:15

1) Catherine Deyo      2) Lucie      3) need 1 more volunteer

**Draft Agreements** (continued conversation) - tabled for May meeting

Announcement: **Officer positions** are open for September- committee members considering stepping up

**Newsletter**

April, Earth Day/Week/Month, Spring

Lucie: it's very full this month, Janelle sending it out

**Next Agenda Items**

-Draft Agreements (continued conversation)

-New Residents Guide - Brian presenting

- Flyers: want to create them again? Antithetical?
- Repair Cafe Update
- Styrofoam event
- SwapNDrop event
- Future Planning: PotLuck, July Meeting, fall events and/or tours that may be happening
- Chair and Secretary/Clerk and Vice Chair positions will be open for September

Open Discussion:

- Reaching Renters: Mailer with annual City Census?

*Meeting adjourned*