



**Minutes SalemRecycles Committee Meeting held  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
at 6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA**

Present: Julie Rose, Liz Vago, Erin Huggard, Carol Hautau, Susan Yochelson, Tony Keck (substitute chair), and Melynn Nuite (committee clerk)

Absent: Flora Tonthat, Nancy Gilberg, Beth Melillo, Geri Yuhas, Lynn Murray, John Roberts

Meeting was called to order at 6:40p.m. By Tony Keck

**Approval October 3, Minutes** – were approved as written

**Old Business**

1. Debrief-Haunted Happenings Parade of October 5, 2017  
The costumes were great, weather was good. Participation rate from committee was small. The parade was notably longer (time wise) this year. It was suggested that Haunted Happening parade be brought up earlier in 2018 ~May so that we can work to get theme/costumes planned and increase participation by including our volunteers and active recycle community members.
2. Debrief-Repair Café of November 4, 2017  
Our second event went well overall with 35 attendees and ~70 repairs. Some folks dropped off their item and came back to pick up. In the future it will be best to get a consult with the tinkerer and a contact phone number so that the tinkerer can contact person for further questions/pickup. It was suggested that the skill level of the tinkerer be better known so that triage of repairs be smoother. For example, Melynn does works on cotton and wool fabrics and does not sew/work with knit fabrics. Goal is to grow our list of repair types of tinkerers. Next repair date to be determined – possibly April 2018. There was conversation about getting 'store-front' location. Julie pointed out the costs of such rental likely prohibitive for this committee. Others like the community feel of 211 Bridge Street and with time the word will spread of this location for this event. It was agreed that we need to work on the 'café' part of our event. It was suggested to possibly change the set-up a bit to locate the café nearer the 'library' area.

**New Business**

1. November 18, 2017 Textile Drive at Riley Plaza 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Julie Rose reminded us that that we will have a new vendor for this event, "Recycle That". We use this vendor for our Book Swap and Swap N Drop events. Volunteers are on board. It was noted that Nancy Gilberg has already been making some Face Book posts about this event.

2. City-wide Yard Sale – discussion

This type of event does happen in other area communities (e.g. Malden). Committee members shared their experiences. There is a provided list/map of yard sale locations. The week following the event all 'unsold items are brought to a common area for a free swapping. Questions as to feasibility of who would have the time to organize the event (identifying yard-salers, maps/list creations, oversight) were brought up.

It was noted that SalemRecycles' Drop and Swap event held annually at the Salem Common is like event. We can work to better this event.

Decision by the committee is that presently a City-wide Yard sales does not meet SalemRecycles' strategic mission goals.

### **Subcommittees- updates**

1. Butt Bin Recycling-Adoption Program-15 bins

Adoptions are not yet fully formalized. There have been verbal communications/commitments of adoption with Julie Rose, but no adoption papers have been completed. Discussion about working with Salem Housing Authority to get them to help promote our Butt Bin Adoption program.

With regard to Citywide butt bins, Julie reported that they are being emptied with the trash. Ray Joidin needs to get new stickers to go on the butt bins and some bins need to be relocated. Steve's Market needs a butt bin!

2. Trash Reduction – discussion tabled until January 2018

3. Mandatory Recycling/Hauler Ordinance – discussion tabled until January 2018

4. GreenSalem.com

Sometimes challenging with all volunteers to get this site up to date in a timely manner. Site still needs improvement. There was conversation around how best to keep accomplish the necessary improvements and updates in a timely fashion as this site does reflect SalemRecycles. Could there be dedicated time/hours per month to this site? Who could do that? Would it have to be one of this committee's members? Julie may have found a person who might be able to help, and who knows WordPress.

5. Strategic Planning committee

Julie reported that our strategic planning goals were last reviewed and updated in May 2016. These are reviewed approximately every 2 years. It was noted that some committee members want to do a heavy review and revamping of our strategic plan. Members present noted that as a volunteer committee, members like the latitude and independence of our committee work. Additionally, several committee members emphasized that the goals should not change-as we have done the strategic plan update several times with the same resulting goals.

As a related site note, SalemRecycles' 10 year anniversary will be March 2108.

After lengthy discussion it was decided that our December 5, 2017 meeting would be held off site and the only topic will be Strategic Planning. Tony Keck has agreed to be the negotiator of this meeting. Site of meeting to be determined.

## **Community Outreach**

1. Plastic Bag Ban Communication
  - a. Point Neighborhood  
The Point has communicated that they do not need educational materials/events. The only item they (Rosario Ubiera-Minaya requested was our 'seahorse bag graphic' which has been provided to them in Spanish). CDC will get this information distributed to Point residents.
  - b. Seniors  
On December 15, 2017 there will be a showing of "Bag It". Committee members were asked to save any plastic bags to be distributed to seniors to use for their trash. Eastern Bank has provided 100 re-usable bags for distribution, SalemFive has provided 250.
2. Rinus Oosthoek per Susan Yochelson has agreed to communicate with our big stores (Target, Walmart, etc.) about the reusable bag initiative. It would be ideal to get a fact sheet out to store employees.
3. Susan Yochelson and Carol Hautau will scour downtown business to ensure they have handout materials about no single-use plastic bags (or any plastic take away bags 4mil or thinner) and that paper bags need to be at least 30% post-consumer-use.
4. Housing Authority – John Boris will help with getting our Reusable Bag Initiative information into the e-newsletter.

## **Correspondence**

1. E-mail reminders  
Tony reminded us, again, of the MA law that is to be adhered to for our committee work. Topics can be brought up for agenda items but, that the discussion and decisions need to happen during our monthly meetings. Julie also reminded us of email etiquette, professional, courteous are always acceptable. Be cognizant of cc: list – is it necessary? check before you hit 'send'.
2. Monthly Facebook  
Nancy Gilberg not present tonight so no full report of numbers. It was noted that Nancy continues to give SalemRecycles a great Facebook presence.
3. Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution – not discussed
4. GreenSalem – as previously noted in the minutes.
5. Periodic Blog – not discussed

## **Mandatory Recycling update**

### **Other Business**

#### **General Committee Announcements**

1. It was announced that in Jan 2018 there will be a Sustainability Coordinator for Salem Public Schools. SalemRecycles would like to build a relationship with this coordinator. (it was later learned that this was not the case)
2. Julie Rose informed those present that very soon, she should be hearing about the \$30,000 grant applied for to get school recycling 'equipment' and education. (We have received the grant).

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting will be December 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Melynn Nuite  
SalemRecycles Committee Clerk  
Ward 6 resident