

**SalemRecycles Committee  
Meeting of Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

Attendees: Nancy Gilberg, Beth Gillett, Micaela Guglielmi, Carol Hautau, Erin Huggard, Shelby Hypes, Tony Keck, Lynn Murray, Melynn Nuite Julie Rose, Liz Vago, Kristin Woodruff, Susan Yochelson, Geri Yuhas

Absent: John Roberts

Guest: Gary Gill

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of the April 30, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

**Swap and Drop**

Overall, it went very well. There was a problem with some items that were very dirty and others that seemed inappropriate for the time of year, e.g. ski equipment. In future promotional material for the event, the need for items to be clean and dry will be emphasized. In regard to items brought to the swap, it was thought impossible to predict what appeals to participants therefore precluding the need to limit certain types of items. The idea was suggested to have a “Captain” for each event in the future to serve as the go to person for the public and volunteers alike. There was agreement that this should be implemented.

**New Business**

**New Officers**

Julie read the slate of proposed officers - Melynn Nuite for Chair, Beth Gillett for Vice-Chair and Kristin Woodruff for Recording Secretary. A vote was taken and it unanimously approved. Julie thanked the outgoing officers and congratulated the new ones.

**Zero-Waste Pizza Night**

It will be held on Monday, August 5th. Efforts to encourage composting last year were very successful. Volunteers for this year’s event are Susan Yochelson, Shelby Hypes, Liz Vago, and Micaela Guglielmi. We later learned that the Pizza Night will not be held this year, but we can keep this information in mind if anything changes.

**Scooper Bowl**

This will be held on Wednesday, August 7th. Again, this was another very successful event in regard to composting. The participating vendors now use only compostable bowls and spoons. Volunteers for this event are Geri Yuhas, Melynn Nuite, Carol Hautau, and Kristin Woodruff.

## **Maritime Festival**

Due to the fact that this falls at the end of the week following Pizza Night, the SalemRecycles monthly meeting, and the Scooper Bowl night and the fact that participation by our target audience is light, it was agreed that we would take a pass this year.

## **Salem Ferry Recycling**

Thanks to Melynn's efforts, the Salem Ferry now not only recycles materials used on its boats, it also promotes such efforts while enroute. Lynn will check out the Salem Golf Course in regard to recycling when up there next. She will also check on the entrance to Salem Woods.

## **Subcommittees-Updates**

A discussion was held about changing the title of our working groups from subcommittees to task forces. It was felt that a Task Force denotes a stated purpose, action, and an end when such action is completed while a subcommittee may go on forever. The Committee agreed to this change. There will be three Task Forces next year - Composting, Mattresses, and Textiles.

## **Butt Bin Recycling Program**

This program is running smoothly and there are no major changes. As such, Julie feels that there is no need to report on it at our monthly committee meetings unless there is an issue. There is now a map of bin locations throughout Salem that is posted on our GreenSalem and a listing of all the sponsors.

## **Straw Reduction Program**

There was recent news about Swampscott's effort to reduce straw use. It appears that this effort in Salem is going in the right direction, changes happening business by business. The message is getting out with a special focus on coffee shops. General letters have been sent out to businesses and there has been a follow up effort by Salem Sound Coastwatch interns.

## **Mandatory Recycling for Haulers**

There continues to be pushback on this effort and letters have not yet been sent out by the Health Department.

## **School Recycling Grant**

Recycling in the classrooms continues to be a success and now efforts are focused in the Cafeteria where composting will be promoted. Kids chosen as leader/monitors for this effort will wear special aprons identifying them as such. It was felt that aprons were more practical than t-shirts as one size fits all and they can be easily washed and transferred to other children.

### **Community Outreach**

Micaela reported on the conferences that she had recently attended in support of SalemRecycles. She also mentioned that another audit of the wards would be done at the end of the summer to assess recycling rates.

### **Social Media**

Facebook – 2,225 likes and there is a listing for the events for the rest of the year  
Electronic Newsletter - very well received - lots of positive response.

### **Other Business**

Carol Hautau stated that she had put together a draft proposal for doing composting - on a small, trial basis - at the upcoming Food Truck Festival. Given the timing of the festival, it was felt that we could not wait until the next meeting in August to discuss it. As a result, the Task Force on Composting was activated and Nancy, Carol, Shelby, Susan, and Melynn have volunteered to serve on it. Melynn will reach out and schedule a first meeting of this Task Force.

Tony stated that the business of the Task Force should be discussed amongst its members in person or by email, but that emails to the entire Committee on this subject were not appropriate at this time. Instead, the Task Force may report on their efforts at the August meeting. He also took the time to reiterate the tenets of the Open Meeting Law.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn C. Murray

This was my last SalemRecycles meeting after serving over 11 years on the Committee. It has been a real pleasure and honor to serve with such a dedicated and passionate group whose efforts have done so much to improve the quality of life in Salem. I look forward to supporting your future efforts.