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

SalemRecycles Minutes

June 2nd, 2020 at 6:30

Present Geri Yuhas, Liz Vago, Nancy Gilbert, Micaela Guglielmi, Susan Yochelson, Bonnie Bain, Erin Huggard, Beth Gillett, Kristin Woodruff, Tony Keck, Carol Hautau

Absent: Melynn Nuite

March 3rd, 2020 Minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Business**

- New Officers were approved unanimously

- Chair: Beth

- Vice chair: Carol

- Secretary: Kristin

- New member: Bonnie

- 2020 Events Moving Forward with COVID-19 - Beth inquired: how far out is the city approving vs cancelling events?

- Farmers Market is approved to start, with changes including one-way traffic and a new location at Bentley School on June 11th. Nancy mentioned non-profits will not be involved at the beginning of the market – Carol will follow up if we still have our June 18th date.

- Food Truck Festival: Geri suggested it will be cancelled.

- Book Swap: Liz suggested committee focus on this event. Geri suggested this fall event may also be cancelled, stated she will inquire at board of health meeting. Beth suggested community center will not be the ideal location for this event, wondered if there is a possible outdoor location. Various members suggested the necessary changes may be too difficult to coordinate. Multiple members suggested alternative ideas: “pop up” book swaps, table at the farmers market, virtual swap (possibly similar to “buy nothing” group). Susan suggested coordinating with the library in some way.

- Repair cafe – Could possible social distance if participants made appointments.

- Geri suggested all events may be cancelled through December.

- June E-Waste Day: June 27th - 8a -12p. Vendor: RMG

- New changes: wear masks, have money ready, stay in car, items in trunk only. Susan requested comprehensive list of items to be collected. Micaela reminded company does not want white goods (stoves, washers, dryers compactors etc.) which can be scheduled for curbside pick-up with WM. Items charged $20 for each: TVs, monitors exercise equipment, freon appliances (refrigerators, A/C). Micaela will ask RMG for comprehensive list.

**Task Forces**

- Composting - Free Mack Park drop off location is now open. 50 people signed up to get code to participate in the first two days since opened. Forest River location was cancelled for this year due to the cost. Nancy inquired about reason to have compost bagged and if that is necessary this year; Micaela will follow up with Black Earth. 10 Earth Machine composters sold (city can order 20 at a time, for $25 cost to resident).

**Community Outreach**

- Waste Reduction Coordinator Update - still WFH - office staff to be at 50% capacity next week - offices open to public 6/15. Bin checking to resume in July/August. WM reported higher volume in trash (7%) and even higher for recycling for the past months in 2020 due to 2019 because of COVID. They also reported no visible increase in contamination.

- Susan reported butt bin stickers are faded at downtown locations.

- Micaela reported 2 free extra trash bags will end on June 27th.

- Nancy reported supermarket automated machines will resume by Friday June 5th. Redemption centers remain closed because they are at capacity. Nancy suggested plastic bag recycling may have resumed, stated will call to follow up.

- Micaela invited to city council meeting to discuss creating a resolution and/or ordinance for the possible ban of single use plastics, straws, Styrofoam, cigarette butts, alcohol nip bottles and balloons. If anyone would like to listen in – Tuesday June 9th at 6:30.

**Correspondence**

- Social Media Update

Facebook: 2518 likes

- e-waste event online

- redemption center shares reached 10,000 individuals

Instagram: 879 followers

Twitter: 502 followers

- Electronic newsletter

- Susan suggested Bonnie, Liz, and Susan connect to discuss creating survey to send to members to inquire about if they find the newsletter helpful.

**Other Business**

General Committee Announcements

- Liz Vago Update – Gretchen Carey - stated Gretchen (president of Mass Recycle) is willing to do Zoom presentation for committee. Liz requested committee members contact Micaela with which of last 2 two Tuesdays (16 vs 23) will work for a presentation.

- Micaela mentioned how Esmerelda Bisono who works on Sustainability projects for the City was interested in having more information about other green groups in Salem available on greensalem.com

- Liz requested agenda item for August: rebranding / renaming. Nancy inquired whether this is to reflect current capacity of committee or to incorporate new responsibilities. Liz responded mainly to better reflect what committee is currently doing. Kristin suggested considering main intention of committee: education vs. behavior change. Tony suggested creating retreat meeting by Zoom, with support of non-committee facilitator. Susan reminded committee there are documents: mission statements, strategic plan. Kristin suggested creating task force to start process before bringing to full committee. Volunteers for task force: Liz, Beth, Kristin.

Micaela opened meeting to community members - no comments.

Beth reminded committee that the next scheduled meeting will be in August as we take a summer break for July.

“Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 18-25 and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028

through 2-2033.”