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

 SalemRecycles Minutes

March 4, 2021 6:30pm

Present: Micaela Guglielmi, Kristin Woodruff, Beth Gillett, Geri Yuhas, Nancy Gilberg, Michael Sulprizio, Bonnie Bain

Absent: Susan Yochelson, Liz Vago, Melynn Nuite, Erin Huggard, Tony Keck, Carol Hautau

Visitors: Heather Mojer, Dan Shapiro, Cam Fullerton, “T”

February 2021 minutes were not voted as a quorum was not present.

**New Business**

* March 27 E-Waste Day -
  + New location: Salem State University O’Keefe parking lot.
  + Micaela has reviewed parking flow with the vendor and is confident this will work well. Beth noted a press release has been sent out. Micaela noted she plans to put signs at the high school for anyone not aware of the new location and confirmed a police detail will be present to support traffic control. Dan inquired if volunteers would be needed at this event. Micaela noted the vendor staffing is usually enough, may possibly need a volunteer for traffic control.
* April 10 Free Book Day (9a-2p) - throughout city
  + Beth noted historical Book Swap day at Community Life Center used to draw 800 participants, drop off and pick up. Nancy clarified this year’s event will be at community members’ homes - a table/box located in the community for members to take books (we requested people not leave books). Micaela noted discussion with Lucy Corchado from the Point Neighborhood Association who plans to promote participation in The Point. Geri noted the food pantry is interested in doing a book swap on a separate day. Beth confirmed “More than Words” bins on SSU campus is a location to drop off unwanted books.
* May 1 Textiles & TerraCycle (Swiffer dry pads and razors) Recycling Day - Riley Plaza West
  + Nancy noted details of all events are listed on greensalem.com and/or Facebook page “SalemRecycles”.
  + Bonnie noted the city has been accepted into a new TerraCycle collection. Beth noted concern with process of collecting toothbrushes. Heather noted risk is low compared to other activities. Bonnie noted items to be collected: toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, deodorant containers, floss containers, mouthwash bottles (all empty and clean). Kristin noted collection may be possible after textile collection. Nancy noted the last event went well collecting these items. Micaela inquired if we should start at this event or wait. Geri and Kristin suggested starting soon. Cameron inquired what happens after collection of these items. Nancy suggested it may be easier to have volunteers remove items from cars. Beth suggested it may depend on whether there are enough volunteers available.
* Summer Repair Cafe
  + Beth confirmed Bridge at 211 is amenable to hosting an event this summer, dates TBD. Tony had troubles connecting via Zoom to meeting but sent note stating that venue is available any Saturday in June.
* Compost promotion
  + Micaela sent an email to all users of Mack Park composting, stated she received a few responses. Cameron inquired if the city is considering moving towards mandatory composting, similar to Hamilton. Micaela noted there would need to be a lot of education and promotion to move in this direction. Beth noted we would be able to learn from Hamilton’s moving in this direction. Heather inquired about the committee’s impact on commercial composting. Beth noted the city would need to be involved in any movement towards commercial composting. Michael agreed there would need to be city / mayor buy in towards commercial composting.

**Community Outreach**

* Waste Reduction Coordinator Update
  + Dave Knowlton requested Micaela ask the committee about the city’s interest in banning nip bottles. Cameron noted Maine has initiated a $0.05 refund on nips. Beth noted this would not ensure they are recycled as current single stream recycling. Kristin wondered if they are collected by any companies/vendors that do recycle them. Beth stated she does not believe to be committee responsibility if not recyclable. Nancy inquired about the status of the city ban for other items like Styrofoam. Micaela stated she emailed Councillor Dibble who seems interested in sparking up this conversation again.

**Correspondence**

* Social Media Update
  + Nancy: 2,803 followers on FB, the post with most interest was the Little Free Library.
* Electronic newsletter
  + Bonnie has drafted the March newsletter. Micaela stated she could send it out. Beth wondered if Susan will help with newsletters while Bonnie is not available.

**Other Business**

* General Committee Announcements
  + Nip bottles (as above)
  + Salem Film Festival - Beth noted a film to be sponsored needs to be submitted by the end of this week.
  + Heather inquired how to support more compliance with the mandatory recycle from commercial businesses. Nancy clarified the mandatory recycling was recently changed to include anyone (resident and/or business), including private hauler. Geri noted the process of compliance for private haulers is ongoing.