

Salem Recycling Committee

Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2023

Attending

Joel Dashnaw Chair, Carol Hautau Vice-Chair, Jen Birenbach, Secretary, Janelle Rolke City Liaison, Mari Alix, Bruce Cohen, Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Sandy O'Donnell, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer
Absent: Daniell Hepting

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.

OLD/ON-GOING BUSINESS

May 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Catherine Deyo
Second: Carol Hautau
Approved without changes to the May draft Minutes

Committee & City Info

Four documents were sent out by Secretary Jen Birenbach for committee discussion: Contact List, City of Salem census data, Committees of Salem list with member count, example of the Repair Cafe Registration form
Contact list did not have errors
Committees and member count- Salem Recycling Committee is on the larger side with 13 + Janelle
Salem Data sheet- to aide in thinking about how to address who our customers are and how to reach community members we are not reaching
Repair Cafe information sheet - needs discussion and changes & will be discussed below

Swap N Drop (Salem Common, 10-1, June 10th)

Volunteers: Mari, Janelle, Connie, Janice, Pauline, Yvonne, Louise, Cathy, Sandy, Lucie, Nancy
9-11 shifts 9-11:30, 11-1:30
Janelle to follow up with ReSupply to confirm their pick up & get day-of contact numbers
Needed Items - Janelle will collect:
tarps (some categories will need more than one tarp) tarp signs used in the past, one for each category, hand sanitizer
Volunteer material location: volunteers tend to bring backpacks, water, etc - Janelle will figure out a place to put volunteer belongings
Jen to drop off refillable water jug

Styrofoam Drop-off (Saturday, June 24th, 10-1, Community Life Center)

Volunteers: Sign up sheet is online as a shared document

Truck weight- they(Save That Stuff) should weigh the truck before and after pick up to give us some data
Same day as Pride Parade, will not conflict with it

NEW BUSINESS

Salem State- Janelle is speaking with Salem State University about joining efforts and hosting a Zero Waste Day in March 2024. She envisions things like pop-up Repair Cafes and reuse events, films and documentaries within the University and the City of Salem.

Repair Cafe: Updating Logistics & Planning

Demi has been working on the Repair Cafe- looking to remove congestion and confusion

Demi reviewed and re-created the Registration, management process, and day-of ticket with feedback data on the back of the ticket - She created an online digital sign-up, registration and table assignments process using google docs

This will reduce time spent registering (for customers) and directing customers to the appropriate tables (for Committee members and volunteers)

Demi will send out the documents she created for committee review and feedback

Hoping 90% of the public will be able to sign up independently online, the folks who are more comfortable calling for a sign up can do that just like always

Ideally a sub-group will manage this event

Next Repair Cafe: November 2023 (3rd of 3 a year)

There is pressure to have more per year - Nancy has a couple people asking for monthly in some categories, like a mini-repair cafe for sewing and mechanical or something similar

A few mini cafes for hot topic areas could be considered, this depends on the community center calendar and determining who would coordinate it. It may or may not be feasible in the future.

Task Force: Jen and Demi confirmed, (Nancy, Mari, Catherine, & Carol are considering it)

TerraCycle Team

Sandy, Carol, Daniell, and Janelle worked on this a couple weeks ago

A dedicated group who regularly meet and do the work of the TerraCycle packaging and shipping it out

Work: empty and sort bins accurately, label and ship them at UPS

It's popular and there are a lot of things to package

Routine needed: Monthly is good, Janelle would print the labels and bring the group to the basement where the materials are kept so the items can be sorted. It should take about 2 hours.

Task Force: Daniell, Sandy, Carol, Lucie confirmed

COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

Membership Guidelines

There is general agreement for these, some concern about if it's needed. There is a need to include understanding that people have lives and it not be punitive.

Examples shared are:

-agreeing to "attend most meetings" or "attend most events."

-One year commitment would be too short

-Limiting number of people on the committee may be problematic or not- the committee will operate with this group (13) for awhile and see how it flows, it may be a perfect number of people, or not

-Term limits/- why have them? Could be benefits to it, re-upping a term would be fine, but it can help with expectations and the expectation of people committing to the committee which aids in relationships

Joel will research some guidelines and draft a one- page document for the committee to workshop at a future meeting.

Newsletter

Lucie has agreed to headline the Newsletter

If anyone hears anything interesting in the recycling/reduce/reusing world, send to Lucie & Janelle

This includes humor, information, confusion areas, developments, videos, news articles, etc

Topic Ideas next time: Wish-Cycling - What don't you know?

Name: drop "electronic"

Print & mail budget for education campaign? Janelle thinks there is funding, but time is an issue

A grant may be a good idea, submitting for next winter - tabling this for the September meeting

OPEN TIME: GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Website Request

Janelle is looking into limiting how many times the Newsletter Request bar pops up when using the GreenSalem page - it should recognize the person's IP address when selecting sub-pages after seeing it on the first page, or never again if the IP address has signed someone up for the newsletter.

Plastic Bags from Retailers

Salem businesses are not supposed to use/give out plastic bags, they are banned in Salem. If we see them using these thin wasteful bags, we should notify the Health Department. The Health Dept stops in and talks about it with the business and checks back a short while later to be sure the business is cooperating.

Root dinner composting - help request

Carol has a conflict and needs 1-2 people to collect compost at the event. Root takes the compost at the end. There are varying numbers of people taking it to-go, sometimes the majority take the meal to go.

Root's Community Meals: the public is invited to go and chat with others at the event, they happen twice a month, taking a summer break.

Needed: bring paper grocery bags just in case, but Root is starting to bring compost trash bags

Helpsy Open House report

Lucie attended the tour of Helpsy today.

Founded 2015, employee owned (115 people)

Clothing - fastest growing component of waste stream, upwards of 85lbs per person/year today- Due to clothing being cheaper, fast fashion, larger homes & storage, etc.

They collect as far south as North Carolina.

Helpsy takes donations, sells the items in bulk to thrift stores (55cents/lb.) then receives any rejected/remaining items back from the thrift shop with other thrift shop textile items, sorts through them, recycling unusable items. Curbside pick up is not higher quality than the bins, so it's not cost-effective. They collect from their bins every 2 days due to theft issues. Their online selling operation wasn't profitable so they've stopped it. 5% of their materials goes to the trash. There are creative responses to things, such as unmatched shoes. These are collected and shipped in containers to Pakistan where there are warehouses of them and people search to match up the shoes.

Tough Stuff Recycling Tour, Fitchburg, MA

Tuesday, June 20th, 9-2 including travel, tour, lunch, and travel home.

90 minute drive 1 way

Mattress recycling company contracted with City of Salem

The owner will most likely be giving the tour

So far, Joel, Janelle, Nancy and Michaela are attending

Collection Boxes- There are many of these bins around town, but are not spread equally. These may need some attention- does Salem have enough? Too many? Who owns them all? Are they with the right companies or non-profits that Salem wants to align with? There is interest in investigating this area of recycling.