**Salem Recycling Committee**

**Meeting Minutes, September 6, 2022**

Attendees: Janelle Rolke, Carol Hautau, Jen Birenbach, Bruce Cohen, Cameron Fullerton, Bonnie Bain, Nancy Gilberg

Guest: Ward 7 Councilor Andy Varela

Absent: Geri Yuhas

Roll Call and Introductions

Recording the meetings: mixed opinions on recording our meetings, haven’t done that in the past, Janelle to look into the rules around recording the meetings and if they’re posted

**June 2022 Minutes Approval**  
Janelle sending them out with the October meeting invitation for review and then approval

**Old Business**

June 11 Styrofoam Day

Location: Community Center, easy access location, feedback was positive from users

Collected less material than the first/winter day

Green Beverly is still interested in working on this together, they collected the data/stats from the day

Issues: financial investment, is it worth it? If so, once or twice a year? Invite other towns to join with or without a cost?

January Car Stats -

Salem 89, Bev 59 - also collected ahead of time; Unrecorded 4; Ham, Wen, Swamp, Tops, Danvers 7 or 8 cars

June stats - not received as of today

Janelle to follow up with Beverly to obtain June stats and future Styrofoam days

New Business

Review committee mission and goals

Mission:

1. To motivate Salem residents, visitors and businesses to recycle more and waste less through reducing, reusing, and recycling
2. 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.

Not front and center on the SalemMA.gov website for the committee-

Janelle is adding the mission to the SalemMA.gov committee page at the top level, putting the summary at the top, with a link for further information where one can read the details

Mission Review/Editing- two versions out there, both lengthy, a working session to work out a final mission statement would be helpful

Janelle working to arrange a retreat to focus on our mission, in person; rules state we can post a retreat with at least 48 hours in advance, the public can attend but not speak at the event.

Membership Recruitment

SRC has many events throughout the year, more committee members is vital to meeting the committee’s goals. Janelle is already reaching out at her current events.

Suggestions for recruiting people -

Salem High, doesn’t appear to have a volunteer service requirement for graduation

Salem State Civic Engagement Office - Fair event, they’ll contact Julio at City of Salem about open positions on Salem Committees, doesn’t sound like they are looking for tables.

Skills desired:

-Graphic design and flyer creation

-People skills

-Light research

Materials Needed

Flyers about volunteers needed, flyers about committee’s activities and events (who/what/when)

Janelle and Jen to create a few flyers/information documents for the Farmers Market table

QR codes could be helpful

Printing: short notice is fine, so a deadline of 9/21 for design

Cameron’s membership status: Janelle to correct contact info on the website and reach out to confirm with him

September 15 - Farmers Market event, Carol, Jen, and Nancy may be there in the evening

Goal: 2 interested parties

First: Educate about what SRC does

Second: make it clear we’re looking to grow the committee

Styrofoam/Compostable Ordinance

Andy’s update: 2 passages, will go into effect May 2023, just about Styrofoam, not compostability. Styrofoam won’t be allowed for procurement. Councilors discussing this with SERC and Destination Salem. Education is not written into the ordinance but the Board of Health will enforce it.

Janelle is sending copy of Styrofoam ordinance to the committee.

Andy is interested in educating our businesses on this ordinance if there is no other clear choice

Andy is interested in starting an ordinance requiring businesses to compost as this is directly tied to reducing waste

Public Recycling Bins

Carol: standard bins for the public in many more places than they are right now

Janelle- Disappointing information- 99% of recycling bins are used for trash; it ends up contaminated and realistically it’s all thrown out.

Limit recycling bins to bottles & cans?

Dog waste bins: helpful? Not sure

SSCW: students look for things to do, they just put ashtray bins/posts, working with them may be helpful. City of Salem empties them, but SSCW is leading the effort to spread awareness and educate about the program. DPW picks them up. When the contents are wet, they cannot be recycled. The main goal is the butts not going down the storm drains. Janelle can ask SSCW if they’re interested in the dog bin idea.

Upcoming Events

* Sat 9/10, 12-6, E-Love Ate Festival, Salem Willows - Vegan festival, highlights organizations & businesses related to veganism. Recycling will have a table at this event. Stacy from Sustainability will be there. JSRC information/logo was sent to the organizers already. Volunteers: Janelle 12-2, Bruce 2-4 Nancy 4-6
* Thur 9/22, 3-7, Farmers Market, Derby Sq - SRC Info Table. Materials: SRC has a small table, Table is in the annex someplace, Janelle is finding the table, bring a green compost bin with materials, banner and measuring items
* Food Truck festival- Composting at event? 1 or 2 days - Black Earth Composting (Connor) seems interested in bringing a truck, Sunday is more expensive than Saturday - very time consuming and volunteer intensive - Voted to table this until next year in order to grow committee and plan for many volunteers
* 11/5, Book Swap (Veterans Day weekend) Drop off: pm 11/4 drop off & organized tables; 11/5 Drop off 9-12; event 9-1- Is there a vendor? What days are they available? Usually September, but time is tight now. November could be a good date as folks are requesting this event. Janelle to look into vender or event space
* 11/19, 8am, Textile Drive

Mattress Recycling Status- Mandatory in November

Janelle working actively on this - researching vendors, some of whom are too far away to service Salem.

TerraCycle collections

Add and how can we get more people to drop-off items year-round

Additional locations?

Rubbermaid is still free, battery recycling would not be free

Need to have a broader discussion about this program as a committee

Budget

Do we have one?

Helpsy send checks each month, but Janelle is unsure which account that goes into and she’s unsure SRC generates any other income

Can get grants specific actions

Composting at Schools

Malden student reached out to Janelle to discuss this

Nancy has contact

Janelle wants to pilot a composting program at Carlton school, perhaps 8 weeks and compile the data for the City of Salem

SSCW did something similar at Saltonstall School, could be a few years ago- Janelle reaching out for data

Facebook update

Nancy- we have breached 3061 followers! A goal for awhile

Internship suggestion- May be able to use a High school or college student for A-Z Guide

Communications-related items will be held for after our Mission Review/Discussion/retreat

**Task Force- Updates**

Green Salem A-Z Guide

**Community Outreach**

Waste Reduction Coordinator Update

**Correspondence**

Social Media Update - Nancy

Electronic newsletter-topics, creation and increasing distribution

**Other Business**

What roles do we have? What do we need?

General Committee Announcements

Vermont Student links

Should we post about the recycling Ted Talk Audio?

Next Up

Mission Retreat: Janelle Sending email with possibilities for mission discussion

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2022