

Salem Recycling Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes, October 3, 2023

Appointed Members

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

Attending:

Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deo, Cameron Fullerton, Demi Fox, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Brian Romer, Janelle Rolke
Remote: Daniell Hepting, Nancy Gilberg, Lucie Patrowicz
Absent: Sandy O'Donnell
No Guests

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 / Ongoing Business

August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Jen Birenbach
Second: Catherine Deo & Brian Romer
Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval with a couple small edits

Event Recaps

Book Swap & TerraCycle Collection (9/23) - Janelle

Another successful BookSwap event- many volunteers, continuous donation drop offs both Friday & Saturday. Estimates are >600 attendees. Discover books took the left overs; some books and bilingual books were held and given to the Salem Pantry guests and future Meet & Eat attendees. Carol also loaded her car full of brown paper bags to bring to the Salem Pantry.

BookSwap Management:

Areas to manage: Reserve Discover Books; St James Church extra parking confirmation; Promoting event; Confirming with CLC; Confirming community volunteers for 3 shifts; Coffee/muffins/waters (purchase or donations?), and pizza & drinks for the Friday evening volunteers; Committee Point People for all 3 shifts; clean up area at CLS; close up the CLC per protocols

Future Planning: 2 Meetings before the next BookSwap, event management will be arranged with the committee to spread out the tasks

TerraCycle: drop offs were happening but the focus was clearly the BookSwap, it seems to be catching on with the community - There is still room to grow with this program

Biggest feedback: The dedicated BookSwap volunteers are essential for this event and much appreciated by the committee. Volunteers were asking for more tables to divide some book categories, all of CLC's tables were used already, Janelle could bring 2 additional tables to the March event if desired. Table organization could be improved in order to help attendees navigate the area.

Food Truck Festival - Aluminum can recycling (9/23 & 9/24) - Janelle

Food was served in the beer tent. Because Janelle reached out to the food truck festival organizers, they put out recycle bins in the beer tent possibly for the first time this year. Recyclables were directed into the recycle bins by the beer fest people, but again only in the beer tent. Janelle checked the bags, there seem to be 8 large plastic bags of recyclables and they didn't appear to have any food contamination. DPW took the bags of cans to Mac Park and they're waiting to be redeemed and get an actual count. Janelle/DPW will be doing the redeeming. It went well given it was a last minute event to support.

Action: Janelle will report the actual count/redemption amounts

Composting: There is interest in recycling and composting at this large event that produces the most trash in a single event. Lowell Folk Fest and the Charles Regatta both compost, we could get tips from them.

Future planning: June meeting item for the agenda - determine if we want to tackle more waste streams at this event next fall

Review Prep for Upcoming Events:

Repair Cafe & TerraCycle Collection (11/4) - Demi

Task force is meeting every 2 weeks, all fixers confirmed- including jewelry, 5 appointments are booked before advertising

Reservations are being made using the online form - it's fully live and working well

The press release and Newsletter info is ready to go

Essex Tech students doing electronic repair has not been popular, not sure why- perhaps a trust issue, if it's again not popular, it may be we drop this section in the future

Textile Drive & TerraCycle Collection, Riley Plaza (11/18) - Janelle

Janelle created the registration form - last event coincided with the Mass ban on textiles- it was the largest textile drive to date, but no one is sure it's a pattern or a 1-off. Janelle requested Helpsy's largest truck to be safe.

Two shifts of volunteers are needed, there are two jobs: Textile unloading and traffic managers. It's a fast moving event with many cars dropping textiles, bags into carts, carts to truck, toss the bags, repeat. There is no cost to the City. We're given a weight of materials gathered and the City gets a rebate.

Textile Recycling Industry Questions:

Bay State textiles have bins all over the City of Salem and the schools get checks (to a foundation) in response to what is collected. Helpsy takes all textiles, sells some online, donates, sells to thrift shops, recycles the remainder. What happens to the "recycled" textiles down stream?

Many textile companies give rebates, they're all different in how they calculate their rebates. CMRT is a company Janelle recently heard about. It may be worth doing an evaluation of the various companies. The City uses Bay State and Helpsy.

Textile questions: where do the textiles ultimately go?

Action: *Janelle inviting Helpsy rep to one of our meetings to explain what happens to the textiles*

New Business

Set Dates for 2024 Events Calendar (leap year)

3 types of activities:

9 Annual Events: Styrofoam 2x; Repair Cafe 3x; BookSwap 2x; Textile 1x; Swap N Drop 1x

E-Waste: Committee promotes event, DPW runs it

Tabling: Committee supports tabling, Janelle leads/books these events

2024 DRAFT Recycling Committee Schedule			
MONTH	EVENT	DATE(S)	NOTES
January	Styrofoam Collection	6th or 13th	Janelle checking with Save That Stuff & Beverly [School Begins 3rd, 3 Kings 6th, MLK 15th]
February	Repair Cafe & TerraCycle	10th	CLC [school vaca. 19-23]
March	BookSwap & TerraCycle	23rd	CLC (Zero Waste Day planning 3/22&23) [Purim 22-23, Easter 31st]
April	Earth Day Clean Up	22nd	w/Beautification Comm. [Patriots Day 15, Sch. Vaca 15-19, Passover 22-30]
May	Repair Cafe & TerraCycle	18th	CLC [Mothers Day 12, SSU Commenc. 16-18, Memorial Day 27]
June	SwapNDrop	8th rain date 9th	Salem Common [Last Sch Day 13, Juneteenth 15, Fathers Day 16]
	Styrofoam Collection	22nd	CLC (w/Beverly)
July/August	N/A		
September	Food Truck Festival	TBD	Recycling/(Compost?) [Labor Day 2]
	BookSwap & TerraCycle	21st	CLC
October	N/A		[Indigenous people's Day 14, Rosh Hashanah 2-4th, Yom Kippur 11-12, Sukkot 16-23]
November	Repair Cafe & TerraCycle	16th	CLC
	Textile Drive	23rd	Riley Plaza, no rain date
December	N/A		

Meeting adjourned at this point due to time, remaining items are rescheduled to the next meeting.

Discuss Committee Management:

Term Durations
Attendance
Officer Roles
Review Draft Charter

Newsletter: October / Fall & Halloween Content

Open Time:

General Announcements & Guest Participation Welcome

High school & college student volunteers?

A-Z List updating