

SalemRecycles Committee Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2022

Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members: Janelle Rolke, Carol Hautau, Jen Birenbach, Geri Yuhas, Bruce Cohen, Cameron Fullerton, Bonnie Bain, Nancy Gilberg

Guests: Nathan Gray, Joel Dashnaw, Mari Alex, Ward 7 Counselor Andy Varela

Minutes Approval: June 2022 Minutes & September 2022 Minutes

Guest: Nathan Gray, Plastic Recycles www.plasticrecycled.com

Plastics Recycles works in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, all over the North Shore

Grassroots effort to educate, collect and provide 100% recycled products

Goal: remove plastic waste from the waste stream

Using single-use plastic and putting it into the final product

They go to schools to educate students, focusing on plastic caps right now and making recycled plastic benches, planters for kids to use, boards that replicate lumber,

Rent/lease collection bins to communities, groups, schools organizations for \$99/month

Nathan reviewed the website with the committee: and reviewed the products offered, their flyers, educational examples

They have worked with area towns, organizations such as SPUR, the Mass DEP

Nathan was asked about:

- Their current projects with municipalities- they are working with towns now, Nathan mentioned collecting part materials like basketball hoops, breaking them into parts and making new plastic items.
- Chicken feed bags: a woven bag
- Current costs: monthly subscription \$100 attractive plastic bin, they collect the plastic collected. MassDEP can cover these costs in some communities using the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) grant funds, but all municipalities use their RDP funds differently or may not have enough for additional purchases like this.
- Not the town residents. Their goal is to keep it local and allow citizens to see the results of their efforts.
- Products made: are they given to the community where the plastic came from? No. They cost \$870/bolted into the ground, installation is extra.
- SPUR has purchased a couple of benches that we can look at when they're installed in Salem, Nathan will send the address when he gets it

Janelle: any follow-up questions can be emailed to Janelle and she can follow up with Nathan

Recording Meetings

Janelle: not mandatory, it's a group decision

Recording meetings: 4, Not recording: 3

Opinions range from liking recording because it's more accessible, being fine with it either way and not being comfortable being recorded.

This meeting will not be recorded, the meetings moving forward will be recorded.

In-Person/Hybrid Meetings

Janelle has already reserved space in City Hall for when the committee begins meeting in person

Discussion about what it's like to experience a hybrid meeting from Zoom and in the small reserved the room

Vote: Offer hybrid meetings?: Yes, beginning November 1st meeting

Technical specialist setting up the camera system: Bonnie & Janelle
Janelle Reserved: 1st Floor "Medium Room," in the back

Review of Annual Events

1. Styrofoam Collection (1-2x/year TBD) (Was held January & June 2022) have had 2 events in the last year with Beverly, it's been costly, Beverly may be leaning toward only 1x/year; opening it up to other towns is a possibility to lower per-town costs
2. Swap and Drop, (1x/year) typically in May. Bring clothing and small household items to the Common, drop them off and take from other piles. First few years were great with good weather, later years poor weather and Helpsy won't pick up wet materials, then Covid hit and it hasn't happened since then. We may want to decide to have this again.
3. Repair Cafe, (2x/year) three times a year at first, have been doing it twice a year in the past few years, depending on requirements- Janelle checking on requirements if we need to have 3 or 2/year
4. Book-Swap:(2x/year)
5. Textile Drive: Sat Nov 19th, Riley Plaza

Janelle to check with Beverly on having at least one if not two Styrofoam events
With a smaller committee, there is more need for all members to attend the events
Next meeting: Vote on Swap & Drop on having the event again

Events coming Up

10/13: Farmers Market table, 3-7pm, volunteers: Jen, Cameron, Carol, Janelle

11/10 & 11/12 Book Swap: Drop off is Thursday 11/10; Drop-off & Swap Day is Nov. 12;
Janelle, Nancy & Carol have worked on English/Spanish flyers and Janelle will send them out for social media tomorrow. Drop off will be held Thursday October 10th - a big shift that will take some public education

Nancy: sent out a soft announcement this past week
Janelle sending out sign-ups for the committee

11/19 Textile Drive: Riley Plaza

Newsletter- Janelle

Janelle is pulling it together, need to announce Janelle in it this time, adding information about upcoming events

New Member Applicants

Mari- Long-term Salem resident, dual language, can translate
Joel- New resident last month from Seattle, has worked in the recycling industry here and in Seattle

Task Force- Updates - Green Salem A-Z Guide

Send them to Janelle as copy & past, bullet points are great

Other Business -

General Committee Announcements - no new items