

# **Salem Recycling Committee**

## **Approved Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2023**

### **Appointed Members (13)**

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

### **Attending**

Quorum: 50% +1 = 8

Joel Dashnaw (Chair,) Bruce Cohen, Demi Fox, Nancy Gilberg, Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnel, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer  
City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Absent: Jen Birenbach, Catherine Deyo, Carol Hautau Vice-Chair, Mari Alix, Cameron Fullerton

Guests: Erina Keefe, Sustainability Director, Beverly; Sean Zeng, St John's Preparatory High School

### **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.

### **June 2023 Minutes**

Motion to approve: Lucie; Second: Sandy; Apposed: none; Minutes approved without edits

### **Recent Events**

#### Styrofoam Event

Volunteers: Lucie, Janelle, Demi, Jen, Mari

Total Costs for the event are not clear

The City pays for bags, paying a fee per bag and fuel surcharges, Janelle thinks the charges were applied differently

The committee is unsure what the cost/benefit analysis is or means - Considering more towns to share the cost, but other towns had minimal involvement- It's hard to optimize the event, January was good because the truck was full and no one was turned away

Traffic: backed up with the very late arrival of the truck & awkward parking, people were backed up onto the road for a few minutes due to the late truck back up

Janelle: e-waste was happening at the high school at the same time and proposes using the high school next time due to the larger area for cars to line up

Goal: need to fill bags as much as possible, due to also being charged per BAG

Nancy: consider holding event once a year rather than eliminating it entirely. Host town has more drop offs.

Joel: Styrofoam is not a weekly item for most people, not having a place to drop off the styrofoam on an ongoing basis it can be prohibitive

Storage space could solve this but location is difficult in Salem

Nancy: what is the environmental value of this?

Joel: proposes a lifecycle evaluation of the material

ACTION: determine costs of this event & if effective to continue and if so, how

ACTION: Janelle to supply the committee with a breakdown of the actual costs from the Styrofoam events

Swap 'N' Drop Event, June 10th

Canceled due to rain, Re-Supply was ok with cancelling

A really fun event, weather can be such a challenge, perhaps a different month would be better

The committee would like to try it again

Downtown is the best location

With advanced planning we could have a rain date

This event has joined with other communities for music and things if desired in the future

ACTION: Committee would like to do this next year, need to plan in advance to make this happen.

**Upcoming Events**

Ice Scream Bowl, Wed August 9th - Recycling Committee will have a table

Volunteers: Sandy and Brian

Salem MainStreets coordinates the entire event

Janelle will get signage to Kylie at MainStreets

BookSwap, September 23

Set Up: 9/22, Event: 9/23

Janelle to send out emails for volunteers week of August 7th, plenty of volunteers for this event

Other upcoming events: discuss at September meeting

ACTION: Repair Cafe: November 4th - discuss at September meeting

Paper Shredding Event idea

Janelle: shredding services are in high demand

Danvers has paper shredding events, using a service, Beverly sends people there sometimes

ACTION: further discussion on organizing a paper shredding event

Staples has paper shredding, batteries, electronics and other items, it's easy to drop off items

ACTION: Decide if the Committee should promote Staples service in the Newsletter on a regular basis?

**Future Events 2023**

9/23/23: Free Book Swap & TerraCycle Collection, 10am-1pm Community Life Center (CLC)

11/4/23: Repair Café & TerraCycle Collection, 9-12, Community Life Center (CLC)

11/18/23: Annual Textile Drive & TerraCycle Collection, 8-1pm Riley Plaza, downtown

**New Business/ReCaps**

Recap on Tough Stuff Recycling Tour, Worcester

Salem Mattress and boxspring contractor

Joel, Brian, Janelle, Michaela attended

80% of the mattresses are recycled - photos posted on social media

It was in the July Newsletter

Nancy will post this on Facebook

Tough Stuff was impressive: recycling, employing, exciting operation

Guest Speaker: Erina Keefe, Sustainability Director, Beverly

She is the only staff person for this work, she is within the Engineering Dept.

Feels Salem does a lot more than Beverly

Erina shared about her role with Beverly, how it works, how it's funded

Want to advance 3 policies: polystyrene; create a regulation for private facilities/apartment buildings which requires the City Council to be involved

They have a Waste Reduction Committee that tries to manage and promote events, such as Black Earth Composting events.

Schools have started a sustainability program.

Discussion around litter and how the Repair Cafe started and works moving forward

Discussed what can Beverly & Salem do together in the future, what roles the Salem committee members have taken on

**Newsletter**

August / Summer Topics / Content (5 min)

Don't bag recyclables

WM program for oils and grease

Household Hazardous Waste

Mark Your Calendars section: farmers market, Heritage Days, etc

Suggestions accepted

Back to School content: how to pack a zero waste lunch

**Open Time , General Announcements, Guest Participation**

Crayon Recycling: ended the program with TerraCycle and so Janelle attempted to replace it with Brita recycling

Other Collection sites: Community Life Center has 2 boxes, but doesn't seem well signed enough

TerraCycle has some controversies but committee members aren't sure what's happening there

Committee Dinner: Joel will send out a Doodle poll soon for a committee dinner

Guest: Sean Zeng - no questions now, will return at future meetings

Audit: October - re-evaluating the definition of an audit with the next solid waste & recycling contract, July 2025 (hauler unknown)