

SalemRecycles Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Present: Nancy Gilberg, Beth Gillette, Micaela Gugliemi, Carol Hautau, Erin Huggard, Shelby Hypes, Tony Keck, Lynn Murray, Melynn Nuite, Julie Rose, Susan Yochelson, Gerry Yuhas

The meeting was called to order by Tony Keck at 6:30 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Since not everyone had met Micaela, she introduced herself as the new Waste Reduction Coordinator and explained the scope of her duties. Then everyone in the room introduced themselves and provided a background about their involvement with the committee.

Recycling Issues

Updated recycling information will be sent out with the trash bills. Salem, among many others communities, continues to have a problem with contaminated recycling loads. One of the chief offenders is plastic bags. Despite the plastic bag ban and attendant education, people are still throwing them into the recycling totes. Julie gave her approval to having more bumper stickers made up that tell users of recycling bins not to dispose of plastic of any kind. A statement will also be added to note that plastic bags cause the breakage of sorting machinery at recycling plants. Another problem is the number of bulk items left on the sidewalk by people who have not made pick-up appointments with Waste Management. The City is making a concerted effort to crackdown on residents leaving items on the curb for “free” over an extended period of time. If you see evidence of this, please take a photo, note the address, and send to Julie and Micaela.

Pizza Night

The Pizza Night, part of Salem Heritage Days, had lower attendance than usual most likely due to the heat. SalemRecycles had 8 volunteers on hand to insure that it was a zero waste event. Overall, it went very smoothly.

Maritime Festival

Micaela, Carol, Beth and Melynn staffed the festival this year (Carol did not need to attend as we broke down the table early). Due to the rain, there were fewer people than in past years. Next year, they will try to position themselves closer to the food in order to have more foot traffic.

Book Swap

The book swap will be held on September 29th this year, due to the mid-month opening of the new Salem Community Life Center. The Center will be open to the public on September 10th and the grand opening will be on September 21st and 22nd. The parking at the book swap will be a challenge and the number of tables that we will have for the swap is unknown. As a result, we will need more volunteers to make sure that things go smoothly. The new Salem Community Life Center is located at 401 Bridge Street.

Butt Bin Initiative

Flora Tonthat is the first business to adopt a butt bin. Greater outreach and education is needed to get additional business owners to adopt butt bins. A Salem Sound Coastwatch intern went around the city and placed new stickers on almost all of the butt bins. Thanks to this effort, they will be much more visible to the public.

Trash Reduction Bookmark

Erin is working on the revamp of the trash reduction bookmark. She may pull in others to get this effort energized.

Mandatory Private Hauler Recycling Regulation

The Board of Health has passed this regulation; the implementation of which will be in January. Larry is leaving and Liz will be filling in temporarily. Landscapers have to be dealt with as there is still much dumping of plant material.

Letter from the Mayor

A letter went out from the Mayor to the City Council discussing an initiative to begin a anti-litter campaign and no-smoking effort in the downtown area. Is there a need for a City litter reduction committee? How would no-smoking in the downtown area be enforced. Micaela, Susan, Carol, and Nancy are on the SalemRecycles litter reduction committee. The Chamber is taking an initiative to encourage businesses with sidewalks to pilot a program in the downtown area to combat litter. Rinus has suggested modeling programs like that of Bridge Street which recognized efforts with awards. There is a pilot program at Splaine Park which is bound by CVS and public housing and contains a community garden. Ward 3 City Councilor Lisa Peterson is spearheading this effort.

GreenSalem website

The A to Z list has been updated and the subcommittee continues to work on updating other content. We are awaiting word about receiving funding for a new website. If that does not come to pass, we will just continue to update content and freshen the site as much as possible. For the time being, Micaela is doing all of the updates.

Monthly Reminder

No decision-making should be done by email. Such discussions must be held at our monthly meetings.

Social Media Update

Facebook

Nancy reported that we have 1945 likes on Facebook. Events that take us up to the end of the calendar year have been posted. Nancy requested that we invite friends to the book swap and e-waste event. If you need a tutorial, please let Nancy know.

Electronic Newsletter

The next one is in the works and will feature news about the Book Swap, Electronic Waste Collection, the Adopt a butt bin program, Board of Health Regs. for private haulers, etc.

Announcements

WM has picked up some new communities and there is a transition to a new route manager which has caused some problems. The use of the self fill water stations at the NPS in Salem over the next few years has resulted in the equivalent of 20,000 fewer water bottles going into the wastestream. (This would be a great topic for newsletter).

The Holiday Pot Luck in December will be held at the Salem Sound Coastwatch headquarters on Federal Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at 6:30 pm at the new City Hall Annex.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Murray
Recording Secretary

