

SalemRecycles
Meeting of Tuesday, January 8, 2018

Attendees: Tony Keck, Shelby Hypes, Melynn Nuite, Julie Rose, Susan Yochelson, Liz Vago, Michaela Gugliemi, Geri Yuhas, Carol Hautau, Lynn Murray, Kristin Woodruff

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of the meeting in November were approved.

Textile Drive Review - Overall it went very well, the shorter hours worked, and a total of 4.5 tons was collected.

Michaela has created a 1-pager on Where to Go to recycle textiles as part of the Textile Education Plan. This will be a link on both saalem.com and greensalem.com. There will be a bin located at 27 Charter Street in which people may place unwanted textiles. Lynn and Michaela will meet to further the effort on the development of a one-pager or rack card on the recycling of textiles.

New Business

Hauler Ordinance

The new Hauler Ordinance was addressed. There was some confusion about who had the task of implementing the ordinance and providing oversight. A new director of the Board of Health is about to come on board. Geri and Julie will have a further discussion off-site.

Repair Cafe

A repair cafe will be held on Saturday, February 2nd at the Bridge at 211 bringing the number of repair cafes to three that will be held in 2019. Efforts are ongoing to make sure that there are enough "repair" personnel for the event and enough volunteers to support the effort.

Book Swap

The next Book Swap will be held on Saturday, March 16th at the Salem Community Life Center. Julie will be meeting with the proposed vendor for this event. Because of the vagaries of the recycling market, it is increasingly difficult to find outlets for books.

Butt Bin

There will be no new Butt Bins installed during the winter months. A shout out goes to Susan Yochelson who has adopted the Butt Bin opposite Lafayette Park.

Mandatory Litter Reduction Subcommittee

This effort is on hold until such time there are more participants and greater resources available to tackle the problem of litter in Salem.

Straw Use Reduction Subcommittee

A shout out goes to Opus Restaurant as they no longer offer straws to patrons unless one is required due to disability or age. S/R should make a continued effort to praise those businesses that have adopted a ban on straws. The subcommittee needs to come up with a list of the top 30 businesses to visit and encourage the adoption of the ban.

Tony has volunteered to write a short article on this initiative.

GreenSalem.com

Brian has been doing a great deal of back end work on this site. Shelby plans to call a meeting of the website subcommittee for this week. She is also distributing the updated A-Z list and inviting committee members to add to it.

Recycling in Salem Schools

There is now recycling in all classrooms within all Salem public schools. More education is needed on specifically what may or may not be recycled. Julie and Michaela will be meeting with the custodians of the schools as more of a listening session than anything else. Michaela has provided the teachers with educational resources including links to videos. There is a new Facilities Manager for the school who brings a new level of enthusiasm to the program.

Change of Date for the May Meeting

The meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday in May will be moved back to April 30th. This means that there will be two meetings in April - April 2nd and April 30th.

Waste Reduction Coordinator

Michaela discussed the recent report that highlighted Ward 5 as having the highest rate of contaminated recycling loads. On some streets it is as high as 40%. Ward 3 has the lowest rate of contamination. Clearly, continued education and enforcement efforts are called for.

Social Media Update

Facebook - there are now slightly over 2000 likes. Nancy continues to do a great job adding content and attracting new users.

E-Newsletter - Susan has a new issue in the works that will include information on recycling at condominium and apartment complexes with independent haulers, straw use reduction, and the Repair Cafe.

Instagram - Michaela has a lot of great images that can be used for recycling education. This will be a link on the new updated website.

Vegetation Removal Efforts in December

There seemed to be some confusion among the public about how to dispose of Christmas trees, wreaths, kissing balls, holiday green ropes and such. It was stated that only Christmas trees can be

placed at curbside for pick up, and that will be the week of New Year and the week after. No other holiday greens or plants can be set curbside for pickup with the trees, this is due to the wires and other items used to create them. Wreaths and other items may be disassembled to remove the greens to be pickup with yard waste, or placed in the trash. This information was included in the Facebook posts, but note was taken to get that message out frequently starting right after Christmas day.

Salem Film Fest

Does SalemRecycles plan to sponsor a film this year at the Film Fest? If so, Lynn will help with the selection of a film and will coordinate with this committee. It was first suggested that we try to have a greater presence at this festival to promote recycling and with further discussion, it seemed that the greater opportunity might be to approach the venues individually to encourage greater recycling.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Murray
Recording Secretary