**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Remote Participation**

**In Attendance**: John Hayes, Jeff Cohen, Chris Cantone, Doug Bowker, Esmeralda Bisono (City staff), Jenna Ide (City staff)

**Not in Attendance**: Phil Koch, Rick Nye, Gail Kubik, Meg Riccardi

**Public**: Alan Hanscom (SATV), Pat Gozemba (SAFE), Stan Franzeen (SAFE), Kerry Murphy (City of Salem Health Dept.), Patrick Schultz, Matt Buchanan, Andy Varela

**Introductions**

**Public Comment**

**Review & Approve Meeting Minutes**

* Jeff Cohen makes a motion to accept the minutes. Doug Bowker seconded.
  + A roll call vote was done, and the motion passes unanimously.

**Discussion on Mack Park Food Farm with Kerry Murphy, Patrick Schultz, Matt Buchanan, & Andy Varela**

* More information on the project is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/Mack-Park-Food-Farm-104327477910026/>
* Kerry Murphy – This project started from the 2018 Salem Food for All Food Policy Council. Mack Park was identified as a feasible location. The farm broke ground in October 2019 and so far, 7,000 pounds of food (vegetables) has been grown. Matt Buchanan, Pat Schultz, and Andy Varela designed the farm which includes a solar shed, a pond, and uses recycled water. More food, plants, and crops will be planted next Spring.
* Patrick Schultz – We had a large food production this year despite some setbacks. The farm is 100% organic and will become more and more sustainable: pumping water back to irrigate the farm, it will retain a lot of water, feeding the wetlands. There will be perennials everywhere in addition to food. There is an ADA path/sitting area with shade, educational programming beginning next year, and more. The volunteers have been great and a huge reason for the success of the farm.
  + We will be ordering fruit trees, saplings, etc. over the next month so it will be delivered by Spring – the intention being to create a ‘Community Food Forest’.
  + There has been an average of over 100 people per week for the mobile market at Mack park. The team will start looking to give away 15,000 pounds of food.
* Moving forward, the team would like to focus on opening farms on schoolgrounds. Bates, Horace Mann, and Salem High School are great options.
* John Hayes – How is this being funded? Is there a way for citizens to donate?
  + Kerry Murphy – Yes, we have options on the salem.com website for people to donate. We have received CPA funding, City funding, Mass in Motion grant, and smaller grants over the summer to do the mobile market. We are continually looking for funding sources.
  + This year we gave away most of the produce because of the pandemic. Moving forward it may be a mix of selling and giving away.
* Jeff Cohen – I was able to only help one day, but it seems that this volunteering was a great way to create a sense of community, especially during these times. Food insecurity in Salem has increased substantially.
  + Kerry Murphy – Yes, we have volunteers from all over the North Shore and even from Boston. It has been an essential part of this project.
* Pat Schultz – It would be helpful if we identify future possible spaces sooner rather than later. We are working on a proposal for the superintendent and the Mayor for the school spaces. Perhaps the committee and City staff here can help us identify these spaces.

**Discussion with Pat Gozemba (Salem Alliance for the Environment - “SAFE”)**

* SAFE signed onto a [letter](http://www.pfpi.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/H.4933_Climate-Joint-Sign-On_09.25.20-Final.pdf) opposing a Springfield Biomass plant and supporting Environmental Justice. The Conservation Law Foundation also opposes the biomass plant.
  + This letter went to the Joint Legislative Committee working on a climate bill that will be considered by the MA House and Senate this legislative session.
  + For the past two years, Springfield has been named the “Asthma Capital of the US.” [www.gazettenet.com/Springfield-Asthma-Capital-19669693] Enough pollution! Please read the letter to understand why we are opposed to this bio-mass proposal. As a few people on this list noted, biomass can be useful in certain situations but a power plant that burns wood is way too much.
* Upcoming Webinar (Nov. 9) on Green Buildings by North Shore Community Development Coalition ([North Shore CDC)](http://northshorecdc.org/)

**Project Updates**

* **Rocky Mountain Institute’s (RMI) Building Electrification Accelerator Program** (Doug Bowker, Esmeralda Bisono, Pat Gozemba)
  + Pat Gozemba – The last RMI workshop was called “Designing your Inclusive Outreach and Education Campaign” which focused on climate justice. It was presented by Emerald Cities Collaborative which is an organization from San Francisco working on bringing underserved communities into decision-making processes related to climate action.
  + Doug Bowker – This workshop was one of the best ones that RMI has hosted so far. I think it would be beneficial for the Salem RMI team to have 15-minute debriefs right after the workshops so that we can get each other’s opinions and figure out how we move forward with this information.
    - Pat Gozemba – Yes, Doug, that is an excellent idea. We will schedule this for the next RMI workshop, which is taking place on Thursday, November 19th.
* ***Resilient Together*: Beverly/Salem Climate Action & Resilience Plan** (Jenna Ide & Esmeralda Bisono)
  + Esmeralda Bisono – Updates on the Plan process:
    - Final greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and methods report was sent to the team. John Hayes submitted written comments.
    - The final Climate Summary fact sheet/one-pager is posted online.
    - The *Resilient Together* Video should be ready in the next week or two 😊
    - Draft goals sheet which we will share with the committee and others next week once we have done an initial review.
    - Our first survey is ending on November 6 – we have over 800 respondents so far and our goal is to get over 1,000. Please share online!
    - The next Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) meeting is being scheduled, which John Hayes is part of.
    - Please follow our social media pages:
      * Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ResilientTgthr/>
      * Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/resilient_together_/>
      * Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ResilientTgthr>
* **Proposed Redesign of the City's Water and Sewer Bill** (John Hayes)
  + Esmeralda Bisono – Sent it to the Water & Engineering department (David Knowlton and Karen Moran) and they said they will review it and get back to me. The department is currently upgrading their billing system and automatic reading software which will cause a lot of changes in the next few months. Esmeralda will follow up with them.

**New Business**

* Discuss changing upcoming meeting dates – currently scheduled for November 25th and December 23rd
* Jeff Cohen makes a motion that SERC combines the November and December meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. Doug Bowker seconded.
  + The vote passes unanimously

**Upcoming Events**

**Next Meeting – Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

**Adjournment**

* Jeff Cohen motions to adjourn the meeting. Doug Bowker seconded.
  + The vote passes unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:55 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono

*Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or print material in digital format or a reasonable modification in programs, services, policies, or activities, may contact the City of Salem ADA Coordinator as soon as possible and no less than 2 business days before the meeting, program, or event.*

*Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033. Please contact Jenna Ide at* [*jide@salem.com*](mailto:jide@salem.com) *or 978-619-5699 for more information.*