

SalemRecycles committee meeting

April 5, 2011

Present: Jennifer Percy, Penny Neal, Mark George from Northside Carting, Lynn Murray, Julie Rose, Marcia Lambert, Bradley Backer, Liz Vago, Susan Yochelson, Nancy Gilberg, and Kathleen McMath from Harvest for Hope food pantry (former St. Joseph's Food Pantry) and Recycle for Hunger

Absent: Katie Giddings, Tony Keck, and Erin Huggard

Upcoming Events:

Clean Salem/Green Salem May 7th:

Presentation by Kathleen McMath of Recycle for Hunger: 1 out of 5 families in Salem get help from the food pantry. The Recycle for Hunger thrift shop was opened in June 2010 to provide cash flow for the pantry. They also provide free clothing and books for children living in Salem, Peabody, and Danvers. A key value of this organization is providing education to help folks lift themselves up in life. They give clothing and other textiles for charity, and have a free bin, and seek to put almost nothing in their Dumpster. Kathleen is looking for other ways to divert items from the trash. She will have a van at Clean Salem/Green Salem to get their message out, and to collect items that are donated. A Girl Scout troop will be there staffing an information table, and Bishop Fenwick and Salem State students will be managing goods inside the truck. They will accept clothing, household items including furniture. They will also have a refreshment stand.

We are happy to have a very local partner for this type of collection at this event.

Mark George—discussion of logistics for event: a recycling truck will come to the common to highlight the recycling aspect of the day. He will bring an E-waste/battery collection Dumpster also. Location will be same as last year. The truck and Dumpster will be there at 9:30. Julie will purchase the blue bags that recyclables will be collected in, and will bring the signs about E-waste collection. Mark doesn't think too many volunteers will be needed but we will have a couple available. If the "bottle river" installation takes place, those folks will be responsible for breaking it down and bringing the bottles to the recycling truck.

Brad will contact Winer Bros to gauge their interest in signage and/or collection of CFL bulbs at the event.

We need to reach out to the volunteer list—2 shifts 9-12 and 11:30 to 2, as well as each of us reaching out to individuals we know who might like to come work the event with us. We will have our informational displays about recycling and trash, papermaking demo, as well as our recycling v. trash sorting game or a true/false quiz about particular discarded items. We have one more meeting before the event to pin down details as needed.

SalemRecycles presentations:

NIAC meeting April 7th

Julie passes out sample printout of the PowerPoint presentation about our committee and what we do. Some committee members have additional photos and will send them to Julie for inclusion. Meeting is here in City Hall Annex; Julie and Susan welcome participation from other members. After the PowerPoint, they plan to present 10-12 difficult recycling/trash items and have a true/false "quiz" discussion about whether each item is recyclable.

Green Business meeting April 12th Liz/Lynn/Julie met and came up with an outline for their presentation to this meeting. It is a reworked version of the PowerPoint for NIAC. Publicity for the event is ongoing, and it is not just for participants in the Green Business Challenge. The meeting will take place

7:30 am here in the City Hall Annex. Folks don't need to be Chamber members to participate in the Green Business Challenge; anyone can join.

Green Fair May 21st: The beautification committee's plant sale will be this same day outside old town hall, which makes a nice pairing. Last year our booth seemed to work very well. We will again have the display grids and the sorting game. We may have as background our Wastecon video, and a video made by a Salem High student about recycling—she interviewed the mayor and others, went on a recycling truck run, etc. Maybe we will display/wear our Haunted happenings costumes to create interest in our booth area. We need volunteers to work this event, 2 shifts again. We will discuss in more detail in May.

Book Swap recap: next swap will be at St. Anne's again, Sept. 10, 2011. We are open to other locations for a future swap; we need partners who, like St. Anne's, can help a lot as far as providing tables for setup and especially helping with breakdown to deal with the books left over. We are thinking March 10, 2012 so as to not overlap with the Salem film fest, and maybe also promote swap at the film fest. We agree that each time we hold this event, we learn ways to do it better. We may reorient our intake tables so volunteers would be behind the tables taking books away, rather than being on the same side as those dropping off. Discussion of ways to promote, and outreach in new places—for example, Lynn notified moms in the Point who she came across. We now have 2 tally-counters so we could possibly count attendance at the next swap. What about the schools, to trade their older unwanted books? Brad wonders about having a book table of free books at the Farmers' Market. We will be having a sustainability table at the Market once a month this season, managed by Julie and Paul Marquis (sustainability officer for Salem). Farmers' Market starts 6/16 and that is our first day there also. Penny wonders about partnering with The Art Association building on Artists' Row. We will discuss all this further at our next meeting.

Bentley School Science Fair recap: The papermaking demo went really well and was very popular. We need a system to keep track of whose piece of new paper is whose. It was very well attended. Brad wonders if we can get a SalemRecycles stamp to stamp the finished paper with.

New Business:

Art Covered Recycle Centers—Nancy Gilberg: Saw in Newburyport some recycling centers covered with collage/etc. Seemed a great fit for Salem—wonders if we even have this type of recycling centers in Salem? Consensus is that this is a great idea and is worth more discussion at a later meeting. We have the BigBellies, maybe this would be a way to distinguish the recycling ones from the trash ones. Julie reminds us that Paul Marquis has input on this as well—promoting various other events in the advertising spaces on the BigBellies.

Rebel Shakespeare—Katie Giddings isn't present, Lynn has a quick synopsis. Rebel Shakespeare has contacted us via Facebook. They perform at Winter Island in the summer. We are unclear perhaps on how they are interested in partnering, but we are happy to relate to them on Facebook, and to discuss whether there are specific projects they are interested in.

Charter School Basketball Litter Campaign—Julie was approached by the Salem Academy about their idea of putting basketball hoops over trash bins to make using the bins interesting, thus helping keep the streets cleaner. Though this is not exactly our area, we would like to encourage their efforts. Possibly we could work with them to morph the idea so as to create interest in recycling.

Website: Lynn and Salem Cyberspace will have the site up and running June 1st. We have so much existing material that is usable; the main undertaking has been getting it organized.