

## SalemRecycles committee meeting

Tuesday March 1, 2011

Present: Tony Keck, Julie Rose, Lynn Murray (chair), Katie Giddings, Jennifer Percy (secretary), Marcia Lambert, Susan Yochelson, Erin Huggard, Brad Backer.

Absent: Liz Vago, Penny Neal.

### **Spring Event Planning:**

Book Swap March 5: Since there is a funeral scheduled for the main hall, we will be setting up upstairs in the school. Julie has some feelers out for youth groups to help bring books upstairs during the swap. Various logistics are discussed.

Science Fair March 10, Bentley School: Brad, Marcia, Julie, and Lynn will be attending; any others are welcome. Discussion of the papermaking demo Brad will be running. He offers to do a pre-demo at his studio next Thursday so we can see how it works and to make some example pages that will be shown at the fair. Julie will bring the vertical display grids, and some examples of trash/recyclables to sort.

NIAAC—fun presentation to develop for April 7: How can we make our presentation more interesting and fun for them? This group is a cross-section from the neighborhood groups. Discussion of what NIAAC is, and what their interests may be. Lynn would like a couple of us to meet beforehand and come up with a concept. Meeting itself is about an hour and SalemRecycles is on the agenda for that night. Discussion of possible ideas—the sorting game? Lynn will send out an email to gauge our interest and folks will set up a planning meeting from that.

Green business Challenge presentation April 12: Discussion of whether we should be hosting a roundtable discussion or presenting a prepared educational program to the business group, and what possible options we have that we could present. We feel business owners may have questions about various materials and how they can/should be handled. Discussion of certain businesses that clearly don't have a good understanding of what is allowed and what is not as far as trash v. recycling. Consensus is to present for a few minutes, then solicit questions from them about what problems or aspirations they may have concerning being "green". Julie, Liz, and Lynn will be attending this event from our group.

CleanSalem/ GreenSalem May 7: We will need as many volunteers as we can get that day, to manage all the events. Marcia and Liz have provided Ellen (from the city of Salem) with updated info for the trash/recycling separation during the pickup part of the day. However, Marcia would like to add a sentence clarifying that for this event only, paper will not be recycled as it is expected to be very dirty. Beautification committee meeting is March 15 here in city hall if any of our members want to discuss this event with that committee. Erin suggests listing the event in the "volunteers needed" section of the Salem Gazette.

Green Fair: we will discuss this at April's meeting.

Schools Curriculum: Liz is not here so we will discuss this in April as well.

**Door hanger suggestion from Susan:** Create a “dear neighbor” letter that is a door hanger. Many of us walk around and see attempts at recycling that come close but miss the mark; if we had a door hanger with preprinted items we can circle to help educate folks about what is desirable, we could simply drop it at the likely-looking door and it would be very quick and would help us reach more people. We may have a small budget available for this. Do we need a subgroup for this, to design it? May not be feasible for March; we will table further discussion until May.

**Other Business:**

Update on compost pilot program from Katie: The purpose of the pilot program is to create public composting opportunity at both Salem and Beverly farmers' markets—for waste from the market as well as allowing residents to bring their weekly compostable waste to drop off here. Pilot program is to help answer questions such as: Who will monitor drop-off, and how will it be picked up from the markets? Is it cost effective, how much will be collected and where can it go? Susan mentions Brick End Farms in Hamilton which Katie is familiar with. Participants pay to drop off, and the hauler gets paid also, so this may not work so well for us. Perhaps one of the farmers would take it? In Beverly this is what is happening but this has not been set up here in Salem. Cambridge offers transfer station drop-off to residents and volume isn't much. Katie suggests that participation here would not be such a huge volume that it would be difficult to manage; so some solution may yet be worked out for our market. Salem Community Gardens composts onsite but per Jennifer's experience they are still searching for how to compost viably. Marcia mentions that Lisa Spence from Salem Community Gardens will be speaking at the SSNA this month if any of our members would like to attend and speak with her then. We may pursue this as a committee later in the year.

Website development: Lynn, Liz and Julie have met with Salem Cyberspace and a contract is being worked out for them to design/host our pending “Green Salem” web presence. Lynn will be the contact person on our end and will be able to make updates/changes once the site is up. She is pleased with the suggestions and the proposed site.

Bringing volunteers in to SalemRecycles: Lynn has brought copies of the “job description” that we created some time ago; this will help us discuss membership with potential volunteers. She passes out this description. Discussion of various city committees and the overlap between renewable energy task force and recycling; Brad has a special interest in “reduce and reuse” and would like to offer his energy in that direction. Discussion leads to a potential Gazette article about bringing your own takeout containers to bring leftovers home from the restaurant, as well as how to save money in various ways such as bringing your own bag at CVS, your own coffee cup at Starbucks, and other ideas.