

2026-08 Zero Waste Salem Minutes

August 4, 2026

Member	In attendance	Absent
Mari Alix		X
Keith Bettencourt	X	
Alisa Cherkasova	X	
Bruce Cohen	X	
Demi Fox	X	
Cameron Fullerton	X	
Nancy Gilberg	X	
Carol Hautau	X	
Victor Hernandez	X	
Charles Hildebrand		X
Lucie Patrowicz	X	
Brian Romer	X	
Sandra O'Donnell	X	

Minutes June 2026 meeting

Approved unanimously by all members in attendance.

Past Events:

Swap'N'Drop June 6 + 13	The event was very well organized including the clean up at the end. The swap vendor, Resupply, was available and on time. A lot of materials were swapped.
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Styrofoam June 20	People were very appreciative and would like to see it more than once per year. Possibly we could consider a holiday event or perhaps a toy swap. Alisa to attend a seminar next month ¾ of the truck was filled up. We have been trying to gather information about where the styrofoam is coming from. As of right now, there's not one company that pops up. There are alternatives to styrofoam. We may consider writing up a petition to present to people as they drop off their styrofoam
Living Green Expo June 28	Tabling at Expo with Carol, Bruce and Alisa. Slow day, not a lot of traffic Raffles: a \$50 Black Earth gift certificate was awarded to a resident new to composting

Upcoming [Events](#)

Ice Scream Bowl August 5	There are enough composting volunteers for tomorrow's event.
Book Swap Sept 19	Issues/concerns: Managing safety and accessibility. Problems with so many people in the limited space. People were getting angry. Some negative comments on FB. We have already minimized advertising on groups outside of Salem and are encouraging people to come later in the morning. Other options: look at another venue such as Horace Mann Lab School. Or have someone managing the door so that we don't go over the fire limit. Vote for HMLS vs CLC with changes: All voted for HMLS with one member abstaining Planning the event: Victor, Sandy, Alisa, Bruce
Tabling at Farmer's Market	Alisa will be there on Sept 24 from 3-7. Will choose a theme. Nancy may be able to help.

Old Business updates:

- Rebrand updates: We are now officially Zero Waste Salem on Facebook
- Upcoming City Councilor guests: Lydia King September and Erin Turowski October
- School supplies collection: "Mass teacher resources" is no longer in business. Alisa will reach out to Staci Sverker who does school supply collections.

- Posting Waste Management audit results? For newsletter and facebook. Trying to determine the best way to present the information.

To do:

1. Create a petition for Styrofoam data.
2. Poster indicating what kinds of Styrofoam are appropriate/acceptable for our event, including physical samples
3. Consider different ways for people to access composting, ex: free bins for interested people, increase the number of centrally located public bins.
4. New book swap task force to meet in preparation for September's book swap.
5. Alisa to contact Staci Sverker re: school supplies

Other news:

Mack Park Farm Fest event Aug 9. Sign up online. 3-7 PM

Brian to step down from the committee as of 2027

Next meeting is September 1, 2026

