

2026-09 Zero Waste Salem Draft Minutes

September 1, 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	
Lydia King (guest)	X	
Darrien Marazzo (guest)	X	

Minutes August 2026 meeting

Approved unanimously by all members in attendance.

Past Events:

Ice Scream Bowl Aug 5, 2026	We had volunteers coordinating the composting sites. We had 3 very full bins. Everyone was very cooperative.
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Upcoming [Events](#)

Book Swap Sept 19	Task Force met last week: Event will happen at HMLS which has twice the capacity as the CLC. The room has been reserved. The custodians will help with set up and trash and recycling at the end of the event. The excess books will be collected by More Than Words on Monday. If we need extra tables, Salem Main Streets has tables as does the high school. Need to continue to publicize the change in venue.
Longest Table Sept 12	Looking for volunteers to help with composting. Food is being provided by Root.
Tabling at Farmer's Market	Alisa will be there on Sept 24 from 3-7. Will choose a theme such as composting. It is also a good time to advertise the Repair Cafe. Nancy may be able to help.
Haunted Happenings Parade Oct 1	The theme is old school Halloween. One idea: reusing/repairing old costumes, material to create new costumes. We will not be able to participate this year.
Repair Cafe	Demi posted a request for volunteers to help with planning the event. Carol has notified the fixers. They have until Sept. 18th to confirm attendance. After that the notice will go out to sign up for repairs.

Old Business updates:

- Create a petition for Styrofoam data.
 - Tabled until next meeting.
- Poster indicating what kinds of Styrofoam are appropriate/acceptable for our event, including physical samples.
 - Tabled until next meeting.
- Consider different ways for people to access composting, ex: free bins for interested people, increase the number of centrally located public bins. Possibly use the \$100 we earned through plastic recycling from Trex to get branded totes. Will return to this item at the next meeting.
- New book swap task force to meet in preparation for September's bookswap.
 - A meeting was held, and the next meeting is Thursday 9/3/26.
- Alisa contact Staci Sverker re: school supplies
 - Staci only collects brand new items, not items for re-use. We can put the already collected items at the next swap and drop.
 - Invite Mayor Pangallo to our meeting. The goal is to make this an annual meeting with the mayor.

To do:

1. Need a sign for the CLC about the changes to the book swap.
2. Need additional tables for the book swap.
3. We need to advertise the book swap locally , especially since the location has changed.
4. Alisa to look into creating an online system for donations although initial information is that this is a complicated issue.
5. Alisa will contact the school's food service people to add plastic recycling bins in the school cafeterias.
6. Committee member guide: Alisa will start to draft a guide that includes info about what we do, ordinances, what is recyclable etc.
7. School composting. We need to get all public schools composting, including Salem Academy.

Guest: Lydia King:

The composting ordinance has made it through the first stage with mixed success. Edits are being made and will be revisited at a future meeting. One restaurant mentioned their concern about how often compost will be picked up. It is unsanitary to keep too much food waste left out. Overall people on the committee are considering it positively. Lydia will let us know when it will next be brought up at a meeting. Lydia King would like to see a more permanent solution to waste reduction. The DPW building in the future may need to be replaced/renovated. It would be a good opportunity to put in compactors, etc.

Children's clothing swap. One resident has been having a clothing swap annually but the clothing disappears within hours. Is there a way to put in thrift stores in the schools or have weekly "clothing shopping". Things to think about.

There is a need for more trash bins around the city. In addition, we need to think about adding recycling bins around public areas, maybe initially at a place like Forest River Park that has more Salem traffic than daily tourists.

Some public schools still need to initiate composting in the cafeterias. This includes Salem Academy. We will reach out to those schools.

Darrien (guest): Darrien is considering joining this committee. She has a passion for keeping the city clean and beautiful. She has several ideas for this group to consider.

Other news:

Brian to step down from the committee as of 2027

Next meeting is October 6, 2026