

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
May 13, 2015 - Minutes Taken by Janet Mosley

Members present: Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Michael Orr Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage **Members absent:** Laura Nichols **Staff present:** Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Randi Mail, John Nardone, Owen O'Riordan **Guests:** Judith Nathans, Amy Plovnick, Helen Snively

Housekeeping: The April minutes were approved. No public comment.

Discussion Topics with DPW Commissioner, Owen O'Riordan

Commissioner comments on top waste management policies: Expansion of curbside organics to Monday route in fall 2015, citywide within 2 years. A new full time staff position will help with this. Bring Your Own Bag ordinance (plastic bag ban) takes effect 4/1/16, another major focus area in coming year. Mattress recycling with United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) is a great opportunity especially given DEP grant, recent positive visit to UTEC. Though logistics of mattress collection may distract staff from major goal to introduce curbside organics, so that may be a slower timeline.

Ordinances (Review of existing, business enforcement & new one on bags)

Inspectional Services Department will update the [online permit application](#) that businesses must use, and the EnerGov inspection process that inspectors use on tablets to gather information about business recycling. Once this information starts to come in over the summer, DPW will review and determine enforcement and staff involved.

Discussion points on review of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance and Commercial Recycling Rules & Regulations: 1) If requirement for businesses to submit recycling plans should remain if not enforced/managed because no dedicated staff. Owen and John N. felt it's preferable to keep requirement and determine how to better enforce business recycling. 2) Is business or landlord responsible for business recycling requirements? If a gross lease the landlord is responsible, and if net lease then, tenant. Generally if the landlord provides trash services, they also are responsible for providing recycling as well. 3) Regulations for food trucks, as it relates to the foodservice containers, utensils, and food waste generated. 4) Randi will try to respond to the remaining questions raised in the review of the ordinance/regulations in e-mail.

2020 Trash Goal, 16 lbs/HH/wk (curbside organics, municipal best practices with every-other-week trash/weekly organics, mattress grant) Randi introduced the recent work of the materials subcom to outline a 5 year plan for 2020 trash reduction goal (16 lbs of trash per household per week). Janet described the results of modeling several scenarios (business as usual, slow, and aggressive) with different materials management policies related to the recycling, trash and organics programs. The results showed that the curbside organics could contribute significantly towards the 2020 goal and generate momentum necessary to move towards the 2050 goal (4 lbs trash per household per week). Will continue to make model more accurate and useful and list assumptions built into the different scenarios. Susy reported on her research of policies and results of biweekly trash collection and weekly organics collection in other cities. Several west coast US and Canadian cities have implemented this policy. Many of these have combined them with Pay-As-You-Throw policies to drastically reduce trash generation. This will be helpful in improving the 5 year plan aggressive scenario.

Recycling Outreach (donate furniture campaign, short term position?)

The Coalition for the Homeless will schedule pickups of gently used [furniture](#) in Cambridge for 3 weeks around May 31. Publicity includes emails, website, 10 A-frame signs around the city, Boston.com ads, posters, etc. Owen agreed that DPW could hire a paid intern to help recycling outreach and leveraging volunteers for spring-early fall. Joanna researched the non-profit, [Recycling Partnership](#) to learn about their education campaigns and what resources in terms of best practices and case studies they might have available for Cambridge. She will follow up with a phone call.

Action Items

- Janet will update the 5 year plan model and discuss with materials subcom, and possibly DPW staff.
- Randi and volunteers –Phone bank Mon 5/18 for furniture donation campaign.
- Joanna will call Recycling Partnership to see what resources they may have for Cambridge.
- Randi will respond to questions from Ordinance review not addressed in the meeting, work to advance internship position for help with recycling outreach, and send doodle to schedule subcom calls.

Announcements & Outreach Opportunities: Email recycle@cambridgema.gov 3-5 days in advance, if you can help for a few hours at: 5/30 Fresh Pond Day, 11am-3pm; 6/6 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Volpe Center, 8:30am-10am; 6/6 Cambridge River Festival, Central Square, Noon-6pm; 6/13 Dance for World Community Day, Harvard Square, Noon-10pm; 6/20 Hoops N Health, Hoyt Field, Noon-3pm; and 6/26 City Dance Party, Central Square, 7-11pm. City of Cambridge bike ride Saturday 5/16, Public Works week 5/18-5/22 including recycling tour at Casella 5/21, Keith will have NOAA book 6/8 11am-4pm at the Aquarium for World Oceans Day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.