

Draft

Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
June 15, 2011, Meeting Minutes Taken by Jan Dillon

Members Attending: Claire Davies, Jan Dillon, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Lisa McMenemy, Adam Mitchell, Judy Nathans, Laura Nichols, Jason Zogg

City Staff Attending: Randi Mail

The May minutes were unanimously approved.

Market & Tonnage Update

Lisa provided a market update. Overall markets are strong. No change in June for paper and cardboard. Exports are increasing. Generation and demand are in check. There are no extended down times for mills. Paper price \$130/ton domestically, \$140/ton overseas. Cardboard price \$160/ton domestically, \$170/ton overseas. Tin price \$300/ton, aluminum \$1900/ton. Mills are taking all plastic available. No change in glass pricing or supply/demand.

Tons recycled in Cambridge increased 14% month to month for May. 864 up from 757 tons in May 2010. YTD increase is 11%. **Tons disposed decreased** 1% month to month for May: 1633 down from 1658 tons in May 2010, YTD decrease is 6%. Tons disposed does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses or the universities.

City Update

Randi gave an overview of recent items.

- 2011 Go Green Awards held May 26 were well received. Winners include: Akamai Technologies, Shady Hill School, Homeowner's Rehab, MIT, Museum of Science, Volpe Transportation Center, Charles River Transportation Management Association, Cambridge Common Restaurant, Hotel Marlowe, Watermark Cambridge, Bulfinch Companies and Cascap. Congratulations to the nominees and winners! The Post Office introduced their new '[Go Green' stamps](#) at the event. [<more>](#)
- The 2011 Recycle Craze school competition just completed its' 5th year. 2011 winners include 1st place: Baldwin, 2nd place: Fletcher-Maynard, and 3rd place: Kennedy-Longfellow. The new 'Rockin Recycler' award was introduced. Next year, DPW and the School Dept will determine how to reward waste reduction. [<more>](#)
- DPW staff completed a sort of trash from the high school. Of about 1600 pounds of trash, 31% was recyclables (paper, cardboard and containers) and 27% was organics (food scraps, food-soiled paper products).
- The 'Recycle More Trash Less' ads are still posted in select T stops and on MBTA buses. Over [150](#) individuals, City Departments, businesses and organizations have taken the 50% recycling pledge. More focus is needed to encourage increased participation. People can sign up online and get a free sticker. [RAC members should take the lead in signing up via the city website. <more>](#)
- As requested by the Outreach Subcommittee, Randi conducted an outreach training session on June 6, which was publicized on the City calendar and in the May recycling eNewsletter. 2 attendees, gave out and assemble outreach packets. Randi offered to run a session for all RAC members at an upcoming meeting, possibly on July 13. She will create presentation flipbook of information on recycling, composting and trash. Assembling these takes time so [anyone who wants a binder should notify Randi ahead of time.](#)
- Budget money has been reallocated to buy additional park recycling bins for Danehy Park, as well as enough for about 10 more parks. The additional parks will likely be set up later in 2011, and emptied by Metro Pedal Power.

- The City submitted a MassDEP grant proposal titled, “Research, *planning and possible implementation of a pilot curbside food scraps collection program for residents*”. If the grant is awarded, phase one involves hiring a consultant to help City evaluate 1) where to take loads of mixed loads of yard waste and food scraps (must be within a reasonable driving distance), 2) who will collect the material and how (curbside yard waste truck or City crews), and 3) will the pilot be cost-effective. Phase 2: If these main issues are resolved favorably, only then will a pilot program move forward. If implemented, the pilot would likely include roughly 800 households, including single and 2-family homes, and multi-family buildings that demonstrate commitment and understanding of the program. Grant awards will be announced in September. RAC members voted to have Adam Mitchell draft a letter of support to include in the grant submission. [<more>](#)

July Meeting with DPW Commissioner

The committee decided to meet in July with Commissioner Lisa Peterson to discuss the mission, priority topics and draft recommendations for the subcommittees.

Subcommittee Meetings

The full RAC meeting ended at 9am and the outreach, zero waste and business recycling subcommittees met for the remainder of the time.