

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

March 12, 2014 – Minutes Taken by Keith Cialino

Members Present: Keith Cialino, Jan Dillon-Schaub, Debby Galef, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Orr, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden
Members Absent: Sarah Connor, Rob Gogan, Mary Verhage
Staff Present: Meryl Brott, Randi Mail
Guests Present: Liza Casella

No public comment.

- **Housekeeping.** The committee approved February minutes. Randi thanked members for volunteering outside of the committee. Members paired up to discuss 2014 working goals, and then gave a short summary of the discussions. Topics discussed included EPR, recycling education to businesses, furniture reuse, expanded polystyrene, hosting a repair café, and a skill share program.
- **Market & Tonnage Update.** Tons recycled in February 2014: 666 tons, up 1.7% from 655 tons in Feb 2013. Tons disposed* in February 2014: 980 tons down 2.1% from 1,001 tons in Feb 2013. *Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 households, public schools and city buildings. Doesn't include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities. DPW will publicize lbs/household/wk in January and June, at the end of the calendar and fiscal year respectively. Now at 18.3 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk. Liza from Casella Waste Systems gave an overview of the current market conditions, which are steady, with demand for cardboard but less interest in newspaper.
- **City Program Updates.** Organics pilot will start 4/7/14 - bins being delivered at the end of March. RAC to form subcom for repair and furniture. Brooke Nash (MassDEP) and Lauren Corduck (Solutions at Work) will be invited. Randi has talked to many non-profit organizations in this arena. A bill for a paint stewardship program through PaintCare will be introduced in MA legislature. Barnstable County has a MassDEP grant to work with the Product Stewardship Council to educate communities about paint EPR.
- **Business Recycling Recommendations.** Jan presented draft recommendations that were put together by the Business Recycling subcommittee from the previous RAC. Feedback is requested by 3/31. Michael suggested outreach to commercial property managers, similar to the outreach planned for multi-family property managers.
- **Outreach Goals / Volunteering.** Additional outreach is needed to multi-family (6 or more units) buildings, of which there are over 1000 in Cambridge. The City would like to reach 100 property managers by August 2014. Additionally, several property managers will be interviewed for inclusion in the monthly recycling newsletter, pamphlets, etc. Measurable outreach metrics include: pounds of trash per household per week; outreach saturation rate, as measured by % of households receiving email newsletter (currently ~10%, goal is 70% or 30,000 emails); number of Cambridge residents reached per hour at tabling events. Members are encouraged to seek opportunities for "pop-up" tabling events in areas with high traffic of Cambridge residents.
- **Waste Sort.** Preliminary results from the pre-organic pilot waste sort showed at least 40% was compostable, ~10% recyclable, and rest was "trash".
- **Identified Action Plan / Decisions**
 - Furniture subcom to meet before April meeting (Keith, Rob, Joanna, Sarah, Janet, Debby G; Michael)
 - Business recycling: Feedback/suggestions on draft recommendations to Jan by 3/31/14 (all RAC members) and members to meet with DPW Commissioner in May to discuss (Jan, Janet, Debby, Michael, Joanna, Mary, Sarah)
 - EPR: General EPR overview at next RAC meeting (Randi)
 - Outreach: Outreach training at next RAC meeting (Randi)
 - Volunteering: Calendar of potential events to be circulated to members (Randi)
- **Member Announcements**
 - Randi to speak at CPAC meeting on 3/13/14, 6-8 pm
 - Lesley University hosting climate workshop on 3/22/14 <http://350ma.org/resources/cau/>
 - Cambridge Science Festival 4/22/14, 3-5pm city panel on sustainability, 6-8pm reduce food waste & compost workshop
 - Tours of the Casella recycling facility in Charlestown on Wednesday, April 23 (morning) or Thursday, June 5 (afternoon); virtual recycling tour on Monday, May 19 at 6:15pm at DPW, 147 Hampshire St.
 - Compost/waste reduction workshop on 3/17 at 6:15pm at DPW, 147 Hampshire St.
- Meeting adjourned 9:30.