DRAFT

**City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee, Council Chambers, 795 Mass. Ave.**

October 11, 2017—Minutes taken by Susy Jones

**Members present:**  David Frank, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Janet Mosley, Michael Pappas, Anne Sherman, Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis, Matthew St. Onge, Mary Verhage, Kristen Watkins

**Members Absent:**  Ilana Bebchick, Joel Dashnaw, Martha Henry, Debby Knight, Liz Marr, Laura Nichols

**Staff present:** Deb Albenberg, Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Mike Orr

**Members of the Public Present:**  none

**Housekeeping:**  The minutes from the September 13th meeting were passed.

**City Updates**

* Rob Gogan said the Fix It Clinic went well.  More people should bring in broken items next time, particularly torn clothes.  The next one will take place at the Allston Public Library on Nov 4, hosted by Harvard. Hoping to make Fix It clinics a monthly occurrence in the Boston area.
* Waste Wizard going public soon.
* Curb side stickers presented - some comments from group:
  + Make “no items” more visible.
  + Not necessary to say “used” napkins.
  + Likes the eaten apple - you want people to eat the food, not throw it away.
  + Our focus should be on getting people to change behavior.
  + “No cleaning chemicals” on “no" list might be helpful.
  + Michael P. asked if there was going to be any additional information on critter control. Mike Orr said they will do some outreach on that. Need people to keep bins locked, will have a whole FAQ page.
  + Could put a QR code to website on it.
  + Meera asked about oil - should we put it on sticker? Or just say “no liquids"?
  + David suggested keeping it simple, not putting too many restrictions/barriers on sticker.
  + Kristen said they put “no liquids” on SF messages because liquid was leaking out of trucks onto the streets.
  + Make it positive “Cambridge now has curbside composting".
  + Is it possible to get a magnet for the fridge listing this stuff?
  + Any additional comments talk to Mike Orr directly.
* HDR will probably come mid November for a visit.
* New staff person starting in next couple weeks.
* Mass DEP gave Cambridge ~$71,500 grant, which will be used toward organics roll out.
* Trying to figure out who will do marketing for compost roll out - update in January probably.
  + Anne Sherman said seeing a marketing framework would be helpful.
* Mike Orr said Cambridge used to have a how to dispose of waste booklet; thinking about bringing this back.
* Mary asked about 3 chutes - Mike Orr said they are looking at making composting mandatory; if so, building owner can decide what’s best; it’s a complex issue
  + Quentin asked if there could be an interim step where big buildings are encouraged to use drop off locations, and given bags or bins.
* Rob asked if composting were mandatory, could you put food down the drain?
  + Mike said this is a nuance - not sure.
* Mary asked where our advice would land - if we recommend waste infrastructure and mandatory composting. How does it work?
* Mike Orr said either departmental level or City Council level is where change happens. RAC could write recommendations and send to DPW commissioner, for example.

**Subcommittee Breakouts**

* Subcommittees met to discuss short and long term goals (3 month and June)
* David/Anne said to expect a RAC Google drive folder in next week or so - a central drop point for all of our info. Folders are currently empty.
* Groups reported out after they met:
  + Policy: Short-term goal is to make key recommendations for ordinance change, e.g. providing bins for trash (lower than 150 gallons). Doing some research on other cities re: bin sizes and overage charges. Working on a June goal.
  + Education/Outreach: Ideas. Promote newsletter in email signature, have demos at events. Having a zero waste day, maybe do it in conjunction with hazardous waste day. Think through what zero waste means as a goal; make it a personal exercise with sticky notes. Determine what city messaging should be around zero waste. Christmas Tree recycling - can we alert people about recycling days, or extend to 3-4 weeks? Paint swap - Boston does this, San Francisco does this (they collect it all and mix it together, give it out).
  + Schools - Short term goal - finalize and finish a video that was worked on over summer to use in elementary schools. Develop plan for America Recycles Days - have librarians put out books. Having more outreach to schools around composting. Develop strategy for custodial staff, importance of separating. Develop plan for next school year - go green challenge.
* Everyone can submit notes and post in Google Drive

**Next Steps/Action Items**

* Next Fix It Clinic - Allston Public Library on Saturday, Nov 4 - Rob will send email about it.
* Follow up any further suggestions on stickers to Mike Orr.
* Look for Google Drive from David/Anne and post notes in your subcommittee folder.
* Mike Orr will resend out Doodle for RAC social.
* Kristen mentioned Food for Free annual Harvest Moon fundraiser at MIT next week (October 20).