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

February 8, 2017 - Minutes Taken by Janet Mosley

**Members present:**Ilana Bebchick, Keith Cialino, Joel Dashnaw, David Frank, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Liz Marr, Janet Mosley, Michael Papas, Anne Sherman, Meera Singh, Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage, Kristen Watkins

**Members absent:** Laura Nichols

**Staff present:**John Fitzgerald, Michael Orr

**Members of the public present:** Judy Nathans and Helen Snively

**Housekeeping:**

* The January 2017 minutes were approved. There were no public comments.
* Brief intros were given by all present as this was the first meeting for several new RAC members.
* Market for recycled materials is strong. The City is currently receiving $5/ton for recycling and paying $80/ton for trash.

**City Updates**

Staffing:  The City continues the hiring process for a drop-off monitor, a waste reduction outreach assistant (for business outreach), and a waste reduction program manager.

Interest in Fix-It Clinic:  Mike reported that 15-20 people have expressed interest in another Repair Café/Fix-It Clinic, including Peter Mui who has organized multiple Fix-It Clinics and helped RAC organize Cambridge’s Repair Café in September 2014.

Business recycling:  Per City Council order, DPW continues to look into the feasibility of offering recycling to small businesses.

Waste trends:  Annual curbside tonnage was presented. Trash collected decreased by 2.9% in 2016 (14,419 tons) compared to 2015 (14,853 tons).  Recycling decreased from 9,232 tons in 2015 to 9,206 tons in 2016.

HDR Consultants:  Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP) consultants may be able to meet with the RAC in March, but it will likely not be during the normal meeting time.  There will also be a public forum.

**Discussion Topics**  
Questions for HDR Consultants

* Is HDR looking at the possibility of franchising of commercial waste?
* Has HDR interacted with City haulers? Mike explained that so far they have been focused on operations carried out by the City, and so far they have been getting all of their information directly from DPW.
* Mike mentioned that HDR is also carrying out a GHG analysis of disposal. A related question is whether or not the composting of school trays would produce less or more GHGs than running a dishwasher to clean reusable trays.
* Members wondered if HDR will look at all into design requirements for new buildings in Cambridge. Perhaps they should be required to have a recycling chute and possibly also a compost chute if the developers plan to include a trash chute.
* See minutes from January 2017 for additional questions for HDR.

Committee Leadership

* David Frank and Anne Sherman volunteered to be the committee’s new chair and co-chair. The committee approved the change in leadership.

Sub-committee Opportunities

* Keith led an open discussion about how sub-committees have been organized and operated in the past.
* The committee discussed which areas of focus they would like to see sub-committees tackle, including waste reduction education in Cambridge schools, RAC events planning, bulky waste policy, analytics, right-sizing of trash bins, policy review and recommendations, and behavior change & marketing.
* Since there was not enough time to make final decisions about the topics for each sub-committee, a general consensus was reached that the chair or co-chair would develop a Google Doc and send to members so that they can indicate their interest in particular sub-committee(s) before the March meeting.

**Action Items**

* Mike will send out an updated timeline of HDR’s ZWMP tasks when it becomes available.
* An effort will be made to arrange for conference call capabilities at the meeting between the RAC and HDR consultants if not held during the normal RAC meeting time.
* Starting with the March meeting, David Frank and Anne Sherman will take over responsibilities of the chair and co-chair.
* David will set up a Google Doc where committee members can sign up for their choice of subcommittee(s) before the March meeting.
* Mike will set up a Doodle to schedule a social for committee members.

**Announcements**

* Harvard is finishing up a Valentine’s Day cosmetics drive for the Cambridge Family Shelter. Harvard has drop offs across campus.
* The 2016 Glocal Challenge at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School recently concluded. This year’s challenge focused on food waste reduction. More information and a description of the winning projects can be found here: <http://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20170123/crls-students-aim-to-solve-food-waste-win-trip-to-italy>