**DRAFT**

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

March 8, 2017 - Minutes taken by Joel Dashnaw

**Members present:**  Michael Papas, Debby Galef, Keith Cialino, Liz Marr, Laura Nichols, Kristen Watkins, Susy Jones, Joel Dashnaw, Meera Singh, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Janet Mosley, Mary Verhage, Quinten Steenhuis, Anne Sherman, David Frank

**Members absent:**  Debby Knight, Ilana Bebchick

**Staff present:**  Michael Orr, Meryl Brott, Camilla Elvis

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

**Housekeeping:**

* The February minutes were approved.
* There were no public comments.

**City updates**

* Hired Isaiah as a recycling center monitor.  Cambridge Works graduate.
* Outreach coordinator and program manager still outstanding.
* HDR meeting: 3/22, 8 - 11 AM.  Open ended meeting.  Go over general city ops.  Finalized report will be sent out shortly.
* Phase one report for organics expansion.  Will be sent out shortly.
* No public forum with HDR will be held, just private stakeholders.
* HDR will tour tipping sites.
* Composting for schools is now being done in-house, up to Rocky Hill Farm in Saugus, along with drop-off centers, and a few other sites.  Due to need to bring compostable trays up to
* Also exploring a repair café.
* Fixer Fair at MIT this coming weekend.  MIT Repair and Reuse Fair this Friday.   I-Fix-it Event.
* Repair Café on 3/22.  Susy.
* Wondering if we need to revisit the BYOB.  Do another tally?  Stand outside local markets and count/record bag usage and type.  Own bags vs. paper bought vs. no bags.
* There was a measured 50-80% reduction after last time.  Volunteers will be needed for tallying.
* Ordinance coming up on one year on 3/31/17.
* Q:  Is there data from Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods on how many bags they use?
* A:   Not really.  Whole Foods donates a portion of their proceeds based on bag usage.
* Martha Henry volunteered to look into any data from markets.
* Q:  Any anecdotal evidence to show a reduction in littered bags?  Or perhaps any reduction in less need to clear street drains, due to fewer bags?  Perhaps look into.  Many variables.
* Q:  Waste audit of storm drains?
* Coalition for the Homeless: Temporarily redoing their facility.  Can’t do door to door pickups anymore.  Not as reliable as a partnership.  Diversion of City used furniture, household goods, etc.
* Suggestion: Bulky item pickup fee, to reduce disposal, rather than donation, of bulky items.
* Out on West Coast, some cities offer two bulky item pickups per year, scheduled.  Free for residences, charged for commercial.
* Different culture here.
* Administration of a bulky item payment program would be costly.
* But, bulky items are heavy, and diversion of them would help the per household diversion weights of the city.
* PAYT programs accompanied by provision of a cart.  Lowell, Framingham, other cities.
* Ordinance change needed.  Currently, 150 Gallons per household allowed.

**Discussion topics:**

**Questions for HDR Consultants:**

Synopsis:  Baseline, what are we generating, where does it go?  MSW, storm drains, leaves.

Looking at all of the things that the City has done over the years.  A first pass in understanding what is going on.

Composting:  Looking at co-collection (trash and organics in same truck), every other week collection.  Exs.  Seattle, Toronto.  Organics would be every week.

Mike:  holding meetings with residents to learn about the collection system, carts, how it is going, what they like, what they don’t.

Reporting:  All around Zero Waste, and composting specifically.

Q:  What are they considering for businesses?

A:  Not much.  Too early to explore.

Q:  What about organics collection for commercial creators?

A:  Not exploring.

Q:  What do the consultants think the top priorities should be?  Where is the lowest hanging fruit for Cambridge?

A:  Organics.  And diaper and pet waste.

Comment:  Business collection should be considered more.  A large part of city’s waste.

A:  Certain areas are very difficult to service: storage, volume, noise ordinances, routines.  Many challenges.

Comment:  Perhaps franchising is an option to solve that problem.

Q:  Is there anyone doing a large picture, holistic survey of all of Cambridge?

A:  No.  Would change the metrics of how we measure things.  Would change the baseline weight per household.

Create a Google document as a forum for the collection and compilation of questions and comments.

**Sub-Committees**

**Committee Values**

Value the power of policy.

Value Cambridge’s pioneering, entrepreneurial spirit.

Value evidence-based policy.

Value pragmatism but also ambition.

Value the short term and long term.

Value the importance of reactionary(?) and preventive policies.

**Collective Vision**

Rob:  Size limit, bulky items fees, carrot & stick.  Toter size.

Mike:  Comparing Cambridge’s diversion with other peer cities of similar sizes.

**Project Related Goals**

Draft a short-term, feasible policy.

RAC should be one-step ahead of City Council.

Develop closer ties with other organizations:  Net Zero, Climate Change Groups.

Include businesses in City policies.

**Education in Schools:**

Liz Marr

Values: education, a commitment to action, respecting time commitments

Collective Vision:  Making sure students are excited about waste reduction, recycling, composting, and developing ways for them to bridge their learning with action at home and in the community.

**Events:**

Martha Henry

Continue community presence, stay relevant and on mind of citizens, reading series (authors on topic), larger event for America Recycles week, and more regular smaller events in a variety of communities.

**Analytics:**

Anne Sherman

Values:  Supporting the DPW capacity, providing research support

Collective Vision:  Support evidence-based policy

30% reduction by 2020 and 80% by 2050

Address data needs

**Behavior Change/Marketing:**

David Frank

Integrated and collaborative approach to marketing throughout the city.  Being transparent and accountable.  Helping the City tell the story and emphasizing positive things.

Collective Vision:  Targeting existing communications, better targeted communication, testing applicability of current signage, action vs. inaction, identifying lower knowledge groups and informing them better.

Expectation:  at least 10 minutes for subcommittee meetings each month.

Subcommittee conference calls between regular RAC meetings?

**Action Item:**Volunteer for upcoming events.  Contact Camilla.

**Announcements:**

Mass Green Networks Summit (Meera)

* about plastic bag and EPS ordinances

Paper Shredding event

* Laura Nichols

Keith Cialino:  Speaking at a Science event at Mead Hall tonight on 6:30 – 8:30PM on ocean plastics debris

Anne Sherman:  Anne’s sister is doing a project on Cambridge Common, collecting memories regarding the Common, and is looking for additions.  Kellysherman.net.

Harvard Surplus:  lots of small desks, tables, chairs, to give away this Thursday