DRAFT MINUTES

                                  City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

                                        City Hall Council Chambers, 795 Mass. Ave.

                                                             February 21, 2018

                                                Minutes taken by Joel Dashnaw

**Members Present**:  Ilana Bebchick, Joel Dashnaw, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Papas, Anne Sherman, Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis, Matthew St. Onge, Mary Verhage

**Members Absent**: Liz Marr, Kristen Watkins

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

**Members of the public**: Judy Nathans, Helen Snively, Alan (last name?), Christine Jones

No public comments.

The December minutes were approved.

**Curbside Composting Update:**

* Feb. 26: first shipment of compost bins arrive in Allston.
* Bins are mostly assembled, wheels need to be attached.
* March 26: Vendor begins delivering bins to eligible households.
* March 27: Door to door campaign begins with a professional vendor.
* April 3: Tuesday route marks the beginning of the citywide program.
* 75 Compostable bags will be provided for each kitchen bin, all contained in curbside bins.
* Advertising campaign has started:
	+ Posters
	+ Stickers
	+ Flyers
	+ Tabling Events
	+ T- Station Advertisements (all Cambridge Red Line Stations)
	+ Still working on truck wraps
	+ Open Houses in three different areas of Cambridge
		- 15 minute presentations with information
* Expecting 40%-50% participation at the beginning.
* Consultants advise that participation could get to 70-75% in 3-5 years, based on other programs.
* Instructions will be available in other languages.
* Flyer will be sent home with every student.
* The City bought two new packer trucks for the program rollout (normally only one per year).  The trucks will have cart tippers.  Four new staff have also been hired.
* Equipment will be delivered, and then goal is for door-to-door follow-ups to take place as soon as possible after the delivery.
* Advising people to place food scraps in fridge/freezer if they don’t like odors; no liquids.

Question about the “3 Chute” Building Infrastructure Model:

* Where does the RAC stand with pushing that idea forward?
* Envision Cambridge has waste goals, which include institutional goals that work to nudge infrastructure towards better practices.  Envision Cambridge planners are looking at potential ordinance changes that might include such building planning changes.

- Suggestion for compost rollout: reach out to various housing groups and neighborhood associations to market/advertise.

- Letters are going to property owners.

- Postcards are going out to residents.

- The City has met with Green Cambridge.

- Met with community development staff.  Getting the word out, getting people on the team.

- The challenge is to reach residents who are not home until late, are out of their homes early.

- A team is working on the marketing.  Grassroots Campaigns.  [http://grassrootscampaigns.com](http://grassrootscampaigns.com/)

- Should there be public area composting?  Like at T Stations?

- Best practices: have a volunteer at the bin.

- Point of accuracy was made regarding the “composting” program expansion: the organics are not going to composting primarily, but are instead are going to be processed via anaerobic digestion.  We need a short, concise way to explain this/answer questions.  Even though the material is not being strictly “composted”, we are still calling it composting, however, for ease of understanding, continuity in terminology, and positive marketing elements (alliteration, easy to understand term, etc.).

- The end result bio-solids residues are not for farm application, but for land-use application.

**Waste Widget: Get Rid of It Right Tool Update:**

* Getting used.  Over 4500 searches to date.
* People are using it to try to determine how to get rid of hard to recycle items: furniture, batteries, Styrofoam.
* Users can also recommend items to be added on to the widget if they are not currently on it.
* Game Update:
	+ Gives analytics on most correctly sorted items and most frequently incorrectly sorted items.
	+ Plastic bags are most incorrectly sorted.

- David Frank has had to move away from Boston, and we thank him for contributions and wish him well.  There is an opportunity to Co-Chair the RAC along with Anne Sherman.

- April Social?  Mike will make a Doodle.

- Please volunteer as much as you can with any of the volunteer opportunities.

- Sub-Committees:  we suggest you meet/call in advance of the next meeting.

- Next meeting:  March 14th

**Announcements:**

March 26:  Mass Recycle Conference

Fixit Clinics coming up:  JP, April 4th.  Allston, April 21st.