DRAFT
Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2018, 8 AM – 9:30 AM
City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Council Chambers
Minutes taken by Rob Gogan

Members Present: Ilana Bebehick, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley (by phone), Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis, Kristen Watkins

Members Absent: Laura Nichols, Michael Papas, Meera Singh, Mary Verhage

Staff Present: Camilla Elvis, DPW Commissioner Owen O’Riordan, Michael Orr, Pardis Saffari (CDD)

Members of the Public Present: Helen Snively

Housekeeping Item:

- Minutes of June 12, 2019 meeting were approved

Senior Economic Development Manager Pardis Saffari discussed her department’s perspectives on regulations of single-use serviceware. She emphasized that the RAC should work closely with restaurants, retailers, bakeries and cafés in the City to design policy that will succeed both environmentally and economically. Key element of Single Use Bag Ban was the option of a reusable alternative. Business Associations can serve as good meeting grounds for these discussions. Regarding the possibility of a Berkeley-style requirement that all in-house dining be served on washable ware, Pardis said that could be difficult or impossible given store infrastructure (some lack dishwashers). CDD would consider a grant program to help smaller independent stores facing the biggest obstacles to buying and washing reusable ware. What can RAC do to educate consumers as well as business owners?

Report from Single Use Plastics Study Committee:

- Survey results (attached)
- Litter barrel audit (attached)
- Comparison with Brookline, other municipalities banning SUP

Commissioner Owen O’Riordan expressed his interest in this issue and stated that he wanted to be sensitive both to environmental and retailer needs of the City. He thought vendors of alternative serviceware might play a useful role, as reusable bag vendors did with the Single Use Bag Ban. Owen also wants City to pursue mitigation options as in Berkeley.

Questions/comments:

Phasing in rather than outright ban might be option.

Life cycle impacts important. Compostable item might have larger footprint than plastic one.
Street compost bins, while desirable, would likely get contaminated.

Consumers can be educated, as with reusable bags.

Good models in City: Violette, Cleenland which are trying to promote standard reusable containers.

RAC recommendations requested by City Council by 12-11-19. Recycling and trash audit at Casella this fall: include “Single Use Serviceware” as a category. Mike to send Doodle for next call for SUP Subcommittee.

City Updates:

- Mattresses way more than expected, but going well.
- Trash is considerably down from last year.
- DPW ramping up to fall kick-off of 13+ curbside compost.
- “Get Rid of it Right” mailer draft with new graphics. Final version will include mattress recycling.
- Contamination at Casella has dropped well below 10%; close to 7% which is excellent and way better than Boston

Action Items:

- Fill out Doodle for SUP call.
- Mike to invite Brookline representative to talk about their Single Use Plastic ordinance.

Announcements: Harvard Habitat for Humanity Stuff Sale to run Tuesday, 8-27-19 through Sunday, 9-1-19 from 9 A.M.-5 P.M. each day at the Harvard Science Center, 1 Oxford Street.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 A.M.
Summer RAC Research
Summer 2019
August 14, 2019 RAC Meeting
35 businesses surveyed total

- 12 bakeries/coffee shops
- 6 fast food
- 5 restaurant (sit-down)

77% of businesses with dine-in option did not provide reusable serviceware
# RAC Observational Retail Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most businesses use</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Both paper and plastic:</th>
<th>Paper:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>beverage lids</td>
<td>takeout containers</td>
<td>stir sticks (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>food container lids (93%)</td>
<td>cups</td>
<td>plates and bowls (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>straws (96%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sauce cups (80%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>utensils (92%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Compostables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plates and bowls (35%)</td>
<td>Take out containers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(31%)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Cambridge Litter Barrel Audit

• **Goals of Audit:**
  • Determine what percent of Cambridge litter is comprised of single-use food and beverage ware.
  • Inventory the types of single-use ware currently dispensed and discarded in the City.
  • Establish how much food and beverage residue is discarded.
  • Determine how much household trash is in litter barrels.
Cambridge Litter Barrel Audit

Auditors weighed each commodity and recorded these proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trash barrels</th>
<th>Liquids</th>
<th>Single use</th>
<th>Street Trash</th>
<th>Household Trash</th>
<th>Trash total</th>
<th>Compost</th>
<th>Recyc</th>
<th>Bag total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling barrels</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Takeaways:

• The heaviest component of both trash and recycling was single-use items.
• In trash, there were hot and cold cups and napkins.
• In recycling, clear cold cups with lids and straws were most prominent.
# Food Service Ware Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Status of Regulation</th>
<th>By-Law Location</th>
<th>Materials Included</th>
<th>Establishments Affected</th>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Language of Interest</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Specific Exemptions</th>
<th>General Exemptions</th>
<th>Intended Effect of Regulation</th>
<th>Enforcement Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td><a href="https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13635/Brookline-Town-By-Laws-PDF?bidid=">https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13635/Brookline-Town-By-Laws-PDF?bidid=</a></td>
<td>Foam polystyrene (foam PS)</td>
<td>Food establishments</td>
<td>Bans providing prepared food in PS or PVC containers</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Caterers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$50 for first offense; $100 for second and all subsequent offenses</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any food service ware that is not biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable</td>
<td>Food establishments</td>
<td>Requires disposable food service ware to be biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Caterers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foam polystyrene (foam PS)</td>
<td>Retail establishments &amp; caterers</td>
<td>Bans selling or distributing foam PS food service ware to customers</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>January 1, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Article 8.32 Sustainable Containers and Packaging</td>
<td>Foam polystyrene (foam PS)</td>
<td>Retail establishments &amp; caterers</td>
<td>Bans selling or distributing foam PS packing material to customers</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>January 1, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</td>
<td>Food establishments</td>
<td>Bans providing prepared food in PET containers</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Caterers</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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