

DRAFT

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

December 9, 2015 - Minutes Taken by Meera Singh

Members present: Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage. **Members absent:** Laura Nichols **Staff present:** Camilla Elvis, Michael Orr, Randi Mail **Guests:** Ted Live, Judy Nathans, Helen Snively

Housekeeping: The November minutes were approved.

City Updates

Curbside organics:

Randi and Mike shared current stats for the program which is off to an impressive start with 1300+ green bins set out weekly, a 51% set-out rate among eligible residences in the Monday route. Bins have been averaging 10 lbs/wk, collecting 7 tons/wk.

Bag drive:

Good conversation about the bag drive including updates on distributing donated bags through food pantries, finalizing collection locations at 10+ city buildings and a few other hosts. MIT will push their bag drive in January. Staff will look into purchasing bags if the drive doesn't yield enough.

Discussion Topics

BYOB outreach plan to business and residents:

Staff reviewed what's been done and members gave great feedback and ideas to strengthen the outreach plan. The City and Cambridge Local First will hold a [BYOB Ordinance Q&A session January 20](#) from 10am-11am at the 831 Mass Ave, Lombardi Bldg basement conference room. Strategies to educate residents about the Ordinance were reviewed and the group brainstormed more. Mike will be leading this effort. The Main Library at 449 Broadway will host an evening film screening of Bag It on February 22.

Check-in with recycling outreach assistant:

Camilla Elvis introduced herself and gave an overview of her outreach activities since joining Cambridge Recycling in September, including significant help with the curbside organics canvassing project, recruiting e-newsletter signups, promoting ways to reduce food waste, and more. She'll also help with BYOB Ordinance outreach.

City Council passed new Ordinance on "Prohibition on the Use of Polystyrene Based Disposable Food Containers"

This Ordinance will take effect October 2016. The Ordinance text was sent to RAC and will be discussed at Jan/Feb meetings. Members should also review [minutes from 8/6/15 Ordinance Hearing](#), [RAC feedback to Council in March 2013](#) (see p 4 in link).

Public comment:

- Request for better volume/audibility during meeting, hard for public to hear all members. Staff will request microphones be set up at table.
- General feedback on ways to educate businesses and residents about BYOB Ordinance.
- Concern about definitions in new polystyrene ordinance.

Action Items

- Joanna will ask Cambridge Savings Bank if they would allow BYOB ordinance posters at ATMs, then maybe other banks will too.
- Keith will try to connect with the Boston Convention Center to see about reusable bag donations leftover from events.
- Debby K will finalize other bag drive locations and Meera will help with cleaning first load.
- Randi/Mike will update BYOB ordinance outreach plan with several additional ideas, follow-up accordingly including whether City has dedicated funds for advertising.
- Randi to schedule bag drive concall in early January and dates for winter RAC social.