

DRAFT

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

November 10, 2015 - Minutes Taken by Debby Galef

Members present: Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage.

Members absent: Keith Cialino, Laura Nichols, **Staff present:** Meryl Brott, Randi Mail **Guests:** Elli Blaine

Housekeeping: The October minutes were approved. No public comment.

City Updates

Curbside compost pickup: It's going very well so far in the 1st four weeks of collection, with tons collected and green bins set out at the curb increasing each week. Averages: 6 tons/week, 1300 green bins set out, ~ 50% set out rate. 100 volunteers knocked on 2400 doors and talked to 1100 households last month. More canvassing will take place on 11/14 and there will be a phone bank on 11/16 targeting residences with infrequent participation.

School composting: Baldwin School began lunchroom composting in October, making it the 11th school in the city. MLK, Jr. School will start in January in its new facility. Morse School will be the last to begin, no date set. In the 2015 school year, 205 tons of food scraps were diverted from trash. CRLS uses bioware but it's unclear if or when other schools will follow. Before the election, the City Council passed an ordinance banning polystyrene, which is to take effect October 2016.

Drop-off compost: The Sherman St. drop-off bins will be moved to New St parking lot for Danehy Park. There may be an East Cambridge location in the spring.

Public area recycling: 17 more street bins will be installed within the next month, paid for in part with grant money from the state, bringing the total to well over 100 street bins. New locations include Harvard Sq, north Mass Ave between the Arlington line and Harvard Sq, Hampshire and Mt. Auburn Streets. New bins were also placed on Western Ave after the reconstruction project, and more will be added to Concord Ave, Huron Ave and Kendall Sq after those construction projects. Cambridge Common will get new recycling bins and the existing ones will be relocated.

Discussion Topics

Reusable Bag Drive: Five drop-off locations have been confirmed so far, see the [website](#) for an updated list. Janet is talking to six food pantries, Debby K. to other drop-off locations and Meera to laundromats. City staff will be encouraged to donate bags, along with Harvard and MIT employees. Randi and Mike have been doing presentations to businesses about the Ordinance. On 12/2 there will be a [Checkout Bag Vendor Fair](#) at the Middle East aimed at local businesses. More widespread publicity will follow in 2016.

Brainstorm on property manager forum: Brainstorm on need, topics to present on, and how to secure attendance. Maybe issue a survey, asking property managers what would help.

Action Items for Reusable Bag Drive

- Janet will follow up with pantries: how many will participate and when they'd like the bags
- Meera will continue contacts with laundromats to see if she can find more who will help, and when
- Debby K. will seek more drop-off locations
- Meera and Debby K. will research cleaning methods
- Randi will look into using a lawn sign for publicity

There will be a conference call at the end of next week.