

## DRAFT

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

March 9, 2016 - Minutes Taken by Debby Knight

**Members present:** Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Meera Singh, Mary Verhage **Members absent:** Joanna Vanden **Staff present:** John Fitzgerald, Mike Orr, Meryl Brott **Guests:** Bronwyn Cooke, Adam Mitchell, Ted Live, Judy Nathans, Helen Snively

**Housekeeping:** The November minutes were approved. There was no public comment. Members signed up to take minutes for the remainder of the spring (April – Meera; May – Susy; June – Mary).

### City Updates

**BYOB Ordinance:** Mike reported on the recent media coverage, fielding many calls from businesses, and continuing to collect a good amount of data on current bag use at various stores. Whole Foods is donating 1,300 new bags and DPW staff are currently going through the purchasing process with the City to buy the extra bags that are needed.

**Waste reduction outreach assistant:** John reported that they had conducted interviews and found a strong candidate they hoped to hire soon. This 6-month, 10-15 hr/wk position will focus on the BYOB ordinance, especially door-to-door outreach to businesses, then shift to the polystyrene ordinance, dealing with questions about plastics and compostables.

**Mattress Update:** John provided a number of details related to the DEP's approval of the City's grant (only covers processing) and the issues related to finding a hauler and providing funding for that portion of the service. Current plan is to provide a 1x/wk pickup and for households to call the City or hauler to arrange for pickup. Current thinking is that there would be a fee to residents, and perhaps the non-freon white goods fee would be reduced or eliminated.

**Legislative Updates:** John mentioned 6 current House bills that RAC members may want to look at related to digital right to repair (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H3383>), reinstating clean environment rules (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H705>), extended EPR (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H693>), improved recycling (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H646>), reducing solid waste and providing better recycling access (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H3420>), and reducing packaging waste (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H3418>).

### Discussion Topics

**Presentation by Bronwyn Cooke, Sustainability Planner for Community Development, Climate and Energy Division:** Bronwyn did a presentation on the citywide greenhouse gas inventory and climate vulnerability assessment. Data from the Municipal Emissions Inventory showed that emissions decreased 20% from CY2008 to CY2012, with greatest absolute decrease in the building sector (19%) and greatest percentage decrease in waste management (37%). Using cleaner energy sources, emissions decreased much more than energy use. The next areas of focus are the Community Inventory (for which it's much more challenging to collect data), Reduction Targets, and Climate Action Plans. Bronwyn hopes that the RAC can help think about in-boundary waste – how to collect the best data, projecting reductions, thinking about goods and foods, which have a huge impact upstream. There was not sufficient time to begin those discussions at this meeting.

**Polystyrene sub-committee discussion:** Janet presented data related to lifecycle analysis. Many issues arose during the discussion, including questions about how people will differentiate between PLA and regular plastic, how compostables would be disposed of (including the example of Portland, where the organics program now can't handle the volume of compostable containers), what the health impact from various types of containers may be, and ways of reducing the volume of single-use containers. Keith articulated the RAC options: supporting the ordinance and working on effective implementation, encouraging a reduction in the scope of the ordinance, or working toward adjusting the timeline. A motion to write to the City Council regarding the ordinance was interrupted by more questions, and it was decided, given there was no time for additional discussion, that Keith will draft a letter to be sent after further discussion at the April 13 meeting.

### Action Items

- Mike will send out times and locations for the next bag tallying sessions.
- Keith will set up a polystyrene subcommittee concall.
- Keith will draft a letter to the City Council regarding polystyrene for discussion at our next meeting

- April 11 will be the next waste audit at Casella – volunteers are needed, Mike will send out reminders