

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2021, 8 am – 9:30 am  
Virtual Meeting Minute Taker: Audrey Ng

**Members present:** Leah Beckett, Dailey Brannin, Catrina Damrell, Shirley Elliott, Debby Galef, Martha Henry, Sakiko Isomichi, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Scott MacGrath, Audrey Ng, Richard Nurse, Diane Roseman, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage

**Members absent:** Ilana Bebchick, Holden Cookson, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Meera Singh

**Staff Present:** Mike Orr

**Public present:** Helen Snively

### 1. Housekeeping

- November minutes approved
- Mary raised some concerns and new topics for discussion:
  - An update on letters sent to Commissioner and City Council
  - Discussion of proposed state bottle bill and polystyrene ban, SUP law
  - Questions if subcommittees should have breakout time during the monthly RAC meetings
  - Questions value of Zoom meetings, would prefer RAC meetings be held in person again
    - Decision made by the City of Cambridge, not Mike
  - Review goals and objectives for 2022

### 2. City Updates

- Textile collection has started! 30 slots were collected 12/7 and more to be filled this week and next. WBUR coverage of program.
- Webinar with Helpsy on 12/14 - Registration link [here](#)
- More than 200 composting bins plus many rolls of bags given away at recent public composting events - Thank you volunteers!
  - How to reach more new tenants/ turnover tenants
    - Try to connect with real estate agents
    - Welcome packet
    - Mail inserts
    - Host events around September 1 weekend to catch moving tenants
    - Newsletter signup opportunity - QR Code
- About 1 ton of compost per day being collected from small businesses
  - DPW hopes to increase participation
  - GLSD anaerobic digester webinar was a success
  - Promotional video and separate presentation available as recordings
  - Sakiko advises having a narrator and a zoom facilitator for future sessions

### 3. Sub-Committees

- Textiles - Chair: Leah Beckett

- High level first meeting to answer questions about new Helpsy bins and program
  - Using Google Docs as main tool
  - Want to leverage Communications group
- Food Waste - Chair: Catrina Damrell
  - Goals around continued outreach and food waste reduction
  - Continuing Rehash it Don't Trash it Newsletter
  - Using Google Docs and running agenda as tracking resource, and spreadsheet for newsletter planning
- Analytics - Chair: Sakiko
  - Met over Zoom, tracking via Google doc and email
  - Discussed target audience, questions to be asked, and subject matter
- Breakout Room Notes:
  - Textiles:
    - [Tracking Document](#)
    - Review team's availability and meeting coordination
    - Why did you join this subcommittee?
    - Goal setting:
      - Immediate: Amplify upcoming webinar 12/14
      - Collect and analyze data from Helpsy
        - Quantity, neighborhood, demographic
      - Connect organizations and businesses to Helpsy
    - Notes:
      - Debby K. and Helen have materials they created from the Reuse and Repair group that could overlap with textiles
      - We should call into the webinar to ask our questions
      - Pickup schedule [link](#)
        - Not necessarily weekly, consistent like compost
        - Not as frequent as compost, and less of an event than mattresses
      - How to encourage people to collect their textiles and arrange for pickup
        - Can the city provide the pink bags?
  - Communication: Goal?
    - Have people become more aware of textile program
    - Find ways to disseminate information
    - Research what details to disseminate
    - Add textile recycling program as part of our agenda on top of food waste

Next meeting:

- Ask Meryl to join our next meeting and piggyback on her work with schools, senior housing, CHA or at least learn about what she does

- Figure out how to meet with all of us together, which has not happened and makes it tricky to set a goal
- Food Waste: The FWR subcommittee brainstormed a first draft of a team goal using the SMART goal framework. Here's our first draft: *By December 2022, the FWR Subcommittee will support and implement new + existing mechanisms for passing out (NUMBER) compost bins + bags to three new segments of the Cambridge population, including off-campus graduate students, high school students, and (3rd segment).* Our next steps include outreach to the local universities' Graduate Student Associations, finding data on approx. numbers of off-campus students who are Cambridge residents, asking Mike for his feedback on a reasonable number of bins to disperse to our target audience + timeline, and setting up times to meet with the other Subcommittees to sync our goals.

#### 4. Favorite Zero Waste Holiday Tips

- Catrina - Candied citrus peels - [Recipe](#)
- Scott - Secret Santa - limits amounts of gifts
- Mike - Deep dish pizzas from Chicago's Lou Malnati's, Giordano's.
- Richard - Stop sending Christmas cards and [Climeworks](#)
- Audrey - Edible herb/ citrus spice bundles and funky fruits (buddha's palm, dragon fruit)
- Helen - Mugs from yard sales and paper white bulbs
- Lee - Email with annual recap and picture
- Sakiko - No gifts, just spending time together
- Dailey - Wrapping gifts in fabric sold as remnants

#### 5. Action Items

- Subcommittee note taker to send notes to Debby and Audrey
- Share the Helpsy webinar link with your networks

#### 6. Closing

- Public Comment: None

#### 7. Zoom Meeting Chat

From mary to Everyone: 08:01 AM

mike the meeting id you provided in the minutes is not working for me

From Scott Macgrath to Everyone: 08:02 AM

Mary - what isn't working for you? Can you try this link?

<https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/88399786374>

oh nevermind you said minutes, ignore me

From MICHAEL ORR to Everyone: 08:03 AM

the meeting id is correct: 883 9978 6374

From mary to Everyone: 08:05 AM

thx things ok

From mary to Everyone: 08:21 AM

are my questions:

I'm not talking about where we meet --- my point is holding subcommittee meetings during the RAC mtg. There is no recording of what goes on in the subcommittees in our RAC minutes

Any interest in the Bottle bill? The SUP bill?

What about setting goals and objectives for 2022?

Don't think that works for me but thanks for your suggestion, Shirley.

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone: 08:22 AM

send Audrey!

second\*

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 08:23 AM

great idea audrey

From mary to Everyone: 08:24 AM

Mike, can you update us on the gift for Rb? And the status of the 2 letters sent to the Commissioner and city council?

From MICHAEL ORR to Everyone: 08:25 AM

Webinar for textiles:

[https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_icZsmmugTPiyhOVJ-gMgPw](https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_icZsmmugTPiyhOVJ-gMgPw)

From Shirley Elliott to Everyone: 08:28 AM

Mike, do we know the breakdown of 200 recipients? We're they new to the program or replacing?

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 08:33 AM

Is there a way to follow up with the recipients?

From Shirley Elliott to Everyone: 08:34 AM

Great idea Audrey!

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone: 08:34 AM

good idea!

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 08:35 AM

Ditto, very cool

From Diane Roseman to Everyone: 08:39 AM

I think something goes out with the tax bill and with the parking permit the compost bags were the biggest draw at the event--lots of people came specifically for those

yes we did!

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 08:41 AM

Here are the questions from Susy:

How did your first meeting go? (any goal ideas?)

How are you organizing your subcommittee?

What tools are using?

Where do you see overlap with other subcommittees? Initial ideas for supporting?

What questions do you have for main group, if any?

From mary to Everyone: 08:42 AM

Thxx Susy-- great idea. perhaps this can be a regular agenda item in our RAC meeting?

From Scott Macgrath to Everyone: 08:43 AM

I think that's a great idea, Mary.

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 08:47 AM

Maybe we can stay in subcommittees until 9:10? So about 25 mins.

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 08:47 AM

Sounds good!

From Leah Beckett to Everyone: 08:53 AM

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aXwtbU3mXy3JnEcAa\\_UcqJT8Wa8bgw0HDPMVpY5SrGU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aXwtbU3mXy3JnEcAa_UcqJT8Wa8bgw0HDPMVpY5SrGU/edit?usp=sharing)

From Scott Macgrath to Everyone: 08:54 AM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BpouNSShKPcmY1MdRkfBC2VnqwUAMvPD3yd3yysPV8U/edit?usp=sharing>

From Leah Beckett to Everyone: 08:56 AM

What are your goals?

What does success look like at the end of the year for your sub-committee? And how can we measure/track that?

From Audrey Ng to Everyone: 08:57 AM

Helpsy Webinar: [https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_icZsmmugTPiyh0VJ-gMgPw](https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_icZsmmugTPiyh0VJ-gMgPw)

From Leah Beckett to Everyone: 09:11 AM

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/textilesrecycling>

From Scott Macgrath to Everyone: 09:15 AM

We should head back in <1 min

From Audrey Ng to Everyone: 09:20 AM

We're not the only ones with this interest! <https://massrecycle.org/podcast/episode-28-simplify-the-holidays-reduce-waste/>

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 09:20 AM

yum

Great link!

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 09:20 AM

<https://files.constantcontact.com/0f4fc7de501/9a934f84-9a5f-4303-bdc1-e50f616b3095.pdf>

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone: 09:21 AM

I'm impressed those fit in your freezer

From MICHAEL ORR to Everyone: 09:21 AM

Lou Malnati's, Giordano's.

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 09:23 AM

fruit seems like such a classic gift!

From Shirley Elliott to Everyone: 09:24 AM

Congrats on your 50th, Richard!

From Diane Roseman to Everyone: 09:24 AM

I'm giving my employees the gift of removing carbon from the atmosphere! It's with [climeworks.com](http://climeworks.com)

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 09:24 AM

Amazing! Congratulations, Richard!

From Diane Roseman to Everyone: 09:24 AM

Congrats Richard!

From Me to Everyone: 09:25 AM

Nice Diane - Climeworks is very cool

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone: 09:25 AM

happy 50th!

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 09:26 AM

that's lovely helen

love the nutcracker soundtrack so much, still.

From Shirley Elliott to Everyone: 09:26 AM

Great idea!

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 09:27 AM

so cool, dailey

From Deborah Galef to Everyone: 09:27 AM

Spending time together is such a wonderful idea - although it only works with certain people!

From Helen Snively to Everyone: 09:27 AM

so true, Debby!

From Catrina Damrell to Everyone: 09:27 AM

Great idea, Susy!

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone: 09:27 AM

happy holidays all!

From Martha Henry to Everyone: 09:28 AM

Happy Holidays, Everyone! And Richard, congrats to you and your wife on 50!

From Helen Snively to Everyone: 09:29 AM

yes congrats Richard!

From Shirley Elliott to Everyone: 09:29 AM

Happy Holidays, everyone!

From Susy Jones to Everyone: 09:29 AM

pizza party!