

DRAFT
City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
September 11, 2013 – Minutes Taken by Rob Gogan

Members Present: Michael Arnott, Liza Casella, George Delegas, Jarrod Jones, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Adam Mitchell, Laura Nichols, Robert Winters
Members Absent: Luis Baigiorria, Claire Davies, Jan Dillon
Staff Present: Meryl Brott, Randi Mail

Minutes were approved from the June meeting. No public comment.

Market & Tonnage Update

Liza said that the recycling markets are generally stable but some improvement in fibers. No changes to the yes/no list, but Casella's baling practices have changed with respect to plastic mix bales and cleanliness. Randi noted several residents reporting that the Globe Direct is now being delivered in red plastic bags, this publication is not requested by those who receive it. Given the City's interest to start to reduce plastic bags, this change comes at an interesting time.

Update on curbside recycling and trash stats. **Tons recycled YTD** January-August in 2013 6,092 tons, up 1.6% from 5,992 tons year to date in 2012 and up 16% from 2009 YTD totals. **Tons disposed* YTD** in 2013 is 10,123 tons down .4% from 10,166 tons in 2012, and down 35% from 2009 YTD totals. *Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,500 households, public schools and city buildings. It does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities. DPW will publicize lbs/household/week in January and June, at the end of the calendar year and fiscal year respectively. Now at 18 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.

City Updates

Planning Curbside Compost Pilot

City hired part-time Organics Program Assistant Jessica Mullan for 15 hours/week through June 2015. Jessica has an excellent environmental background, an M.S. degree from the University of California and her most recent position has been that of Program Associate with Sustainable Food Lab in Vermont. There were 60 applicants, 10 were interviewed.

The City pilot program for curbside compost pickup will run April 2014-March 2015 from 500-800 households in a North Cambridge neighborhood in the Monday collection route. Eligible residences must have City trash service and be single family homes up to multi-family buildings with no more than 12 units. The City use a packer truck for collection and DPW employees (driver, thrower and Jessica for data collection). Rocky Hill Farm in Saugus will be the main composting site. DPW is finalizing details of a project task/time line which includes collection logistics, data collection, outreach materials, recruiting participants/volunteers, pilot launch and grant administration.

To begin volunteers will be needed to help recruit households at tabling opportunities in the neighborhood and talk to non-English speaking households. Recruitment efforts will be focused this fall from October-December 2013. Participation will be voluntary, but all households in approved residences must complete an acknowledgement form. This form will explain the yes/no list of what to compost. Given that more than half of participating residences will be multi-family homes with 2-12 units, there will be about 350 stops on the route.

BioBag is a project partner and will supply the kitchen containers and a year supply of BioBags to line the kitchen containers. The MassDEP grant will cover the cost of curbside bins, compost tip fees, collection costs, outreach materials, and Jessica's wages. Staff is looking at lessons learned in west coast and Canadian cities and is keeping local MA communities updated on the project.

Randi will be attending the Northeast Recycling Council conference October 29-30 in Northampton, titled: Organics Management in the Northeast – Its Time Has Come! Click here for the [conference agenda](#).

RAC Committee Appointments

Committee members 3-year appointments expire this November. City Manager, Richard C. Rossi seeks Cambridge residents and local professionals interested to serve in a volunteer capacity. The RAC, as requested, provides advice, assistance, and recommendations to DPW regarding recycling and waste reduction programs. The RAC does this through research, feedback, public outreach, and event planning. Over the long-term, DPW strives to meet the goals of the [MassDEP Solid Waste Master Plan](#) to reduce residential trash.

The Committee has been active for 20+ years and should consist of at 9-12 members with a demonstrated interest in recycling, composting, reuse, extended producer responsibility, and waste prevention. Members should represent local businesses, property managers, Cambridge residents and users of the Recycling Center, or local non-profit organizations

and social service agencies whose goals overlap with waste reduction. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings (Sept-June), typically the 2nd Wednesday at 8am (meeting time may change). Member responsibilities include participating in creating committee direction and implementation of ideas, taking a leadership role in projects, volunteering and helping with volunteer recruitment, and participating in at least 2-3 community events to promote recycling and waste reduction. Please review the full description of requirements and responsibilities [posted online](#). Interested persons, including current members interesting in serving again should submit an email by **Tuesday, October 22, 2013** describing their relevant experience and their professional interest in these issues to Owen O’Riordan, Acting DPW Commissioner, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02140, theworks@cambridgema.gov.

New GreenSense Campaign on Reducing Paper

Cambridge GreenSense is a municipal employee sustainability awareness program designed to promote energy conservation and other ‘green’ practices throughout City government. Randi introduced the GreenSense education campaign “What’s your paper trail?” Cambridge municipal employees used over 6.5 million sheets of paper last year. If every City employee reduces their paper use by 10%, or just 9 pieces of paper a week, we can save 80 full grown trees and 1,700,000 gallons of water. Staff worked with a designer to develop 3 posters, each highlighting actions that employees can take to reduce, reuse and recycle paper. Reduce tips include double-sided printing, think before you print, use overhead projectors at meetings and opt out of junk mail. Reuse tips include shop and contribute to an office Trading Post; and reuse file folders, hanging folders and interoffice envelopes. Recycle tips include reminders on recycling all office paper, cardboard, empty pizza boxes, and paper coffee cups.

Ali Corwin, DPW’s Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Analyst runs the program and developed a “Champion’s Guide” for the campaign, fact sheets, directions for specific tasks. All resources are on the City’s intranet webpage, known as Common Ground. There are 75 GreenSense Champions from different City departments that act as “town criers” to help roll out new campaigns. The steering committee has representatives from 12 City departments is collecting best practices and success stories as different departments implement ways to reduce paper use. The next GreenSense campaign under development will target reducing use of beverage containers, focusing on water bottles and coffee cups.

Discussion Topics

Outreach Volunteers

Randi asked members to help promote recycling and waste reduction at the following upcoming events. Volunteers are also needed to help table at events and neighborhood locations in North Cambridge to help recruit households for the curbside compost pilot. Please email recycle@cambridgema.gov to sign up to help!

- 9/20 Parking Day, 9-5pm
- 9/21 Danehy Park Day, 11-4pm
- 9/28 CitySprouts Festival, 11-2pm
- 10/13 Oktoberfest, 12-6pm
- 10/20 RibFest, 12-6pm

Brainstorm on RAC Goals for FY14

- Finalize recommendations for business recycling
- Continue to work on source reduction & extended producer responsibility
- Consider pushing for more aggressive zero waste goals vs. the City’s waste reduction goals (30% less by 2030, 80% less by 2050 with 2008 as base year)
- Update Ordinance
- Initiate a discussion on property tax discounts for reducing trash
- Supporting initiative to develop public/private partnership to establish a furniture bank in Cambridge that has a job training program in order to repair damaged and broken items.
- hybrid pay as you throw programs eg fees for large furniture to encourage repair instead of disposal
- Stay abreast and active regarding EPR laws in MA
- Generate and implement ideas on ways to make recycling and waste reduction fun
- Help staff develop robust volunteer program and boost recruitment – explore incentives
- Continue to expand dialogue with CPAC about relationship between materials and climate emissions

Randi also mentioned a new startup in Cambridge called [City Share Club](#), where you can share tools, lawn equipment and small appliances. Sharing a bike and a car is now part of our lives and now City Share Club is looking to start actively serving the Cambridge community and is looking for donations of gently used tools, lawn items or small appliances, to donate gently used items [click here](#). To support this project they are working on a crowd funding campaign, to donate to the campaign [click here](#). City Share Club was one of the winners of the Center for a New American Dream’s collaborative community seed grants in it’s Get2gether Neighborhood Challenge. For questions contact annmarie@cityshareclub.com.

Meeting adjourned 9:35.