

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
December 10, 2014 - Minutes Taken by Keith Cialino

Members present: Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Michael Orr, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage

Members absent: Laura Nichols

Staff present: Meryl Brott, Kelly Dunn, John Fitzgerald, Randi Mail

Guests: Ted Live; Susanne Rasmussen, CDD

Housekeeping

The November minutes were approved. No Public comment. Kelly Dunn from DPW will help Meryl and John with meeting follow-up December-March, as Randi will be unavailable for those meetings during a short sabbatical, returning 3/16.

Discussion Topics

Incorporating materials management in city's waste and climate goals

The working group reported on their discussions: Plan to keep 2020 waste reduction goal, Potential to make changes to 2050 goal, Use quarterly reports to better publicize pounds per week per household numbers, Look into green procurement for city purchases, and Work more closely with CPAC.

Finding out how/what Cambridge Public Schools teach on waste reduction

The working group reported on their discussions: Need to investigate reasons for minimal participation in [The Green Team](#), Meera talked to Belmont (parent-run) and CRLS (will offer course option next year), and STEAM meeting 12/10 at 5pm.

Review recycling outreach budget and plan for outreach campaign on 5Rs

The working group reported on their discussions: A priority is spending the entire outreach budget each fiscal year, RAC/DPW should find ways to leverage existing and future partnerships to increase recycling, i.e. green teams, branding consultant, marketing students at local colleges, and Investigate using online resources (i.e. wikimaps, surveys, social media) to engage residents.

Review of Ordinance, commercial recycling rules and regulations

Many members made comments on the recycling ordinance and commercial recycling rules and regulations. Additional discussion needed on the questions and comments received, and then speak with DPW Commissioner. John F. reported that the Inspectional Services Department is open to possible adding recycling questions to sanitary inspections. Further conversations are needed.

Trash barrels, practices by zero waste communities, council order on rodent-proof barrels

City Council passed order for report on rodent control operations and the possibility to provide rodent-proof trash barrels to residents. This is similar to Somerville, which issued 64 gallon barrels to each household for rodent control. DPW staff to meet with City Manager soon on this as well as recommendations related to curbside organics program and waste reduction goals. City would integrate new barrels with waste reduction goals, barrels would probably be smaller to encourage less waste disposal.

Action Items

- Keith – Circulate working group call notes – by 12/13
- Randi – send results of prioritization of medium priority action items to RAC – by 12/20
- Kelly – set up conference calls for three action item working groups – December
- Kelly – set up call for additional discussion of ordinance comments/questions – December
- John – update RAC as Inspectional Services conversations continue – ongoing
- DPW – meet with City Manager to discuss trash barrels – TBD, probably before January RAC meeting
- RAC – survey currently utilized trash barrel sizes in Cambridge and other similar municipalities – TBD
- RAC – assist with updating “Get Rid of It Right” section of website – TBD
- RAC – 5 year waste goal plan discussion - TBD

Tonnage Update

For Jan-Nov2014 vs. Jan-Oct 2013, tons recycled: 8,427 tons, down .4% from 8,464 tons. Tons disposed*: 13,521 tons down 2.7% from 13,897 tons. *Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 households, public schools and city buildings. Doesn't include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities. DPW will publicize lbs/household/wk in January and June, end of the calendar and fiscal year. FY14 was 18.1 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40.