

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

January 8, 2014 – Minutes Taken by Randi Mail

Members Present: Keith Cialino, Sarah Connor, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Orr, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage
Members Absent: Jan Dillon-Schaub, Meera Singh
Staff Present: Meryl Brott, Randi Mail
Guests Present: Eliana Blaine, Joel Dashnaw, Adam Mitchell

No public comment.

- **Introductions.** Roundtable intros of returning and new RAC members.
- **Market & Tonnage Update.** Explanation how City recyclables processing revenue/fees work. **Tons recycled** January-December in 2013 9,310 tons, up 1.1% from 9,205 tons in 2012. **Tons disposed*** in 2013 is 15,074 tons down 1.3% from 15,274 tons in 2012. *Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 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 18.3 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.
- **City Program Updates and Special Projects.** Review of current efforts on the curbside compost pilot program, the recent City Council meeting about a plastic bag ban, plans to expand recycling at CHA properties based on the successful pilot in 2012, the expected launch of lunchroom composting at the Haggerty school, and recent discussions and efforts in MA to introduce legislation to develop a statewide paint stewardship program.
- **Review of Orientation Packet.** Review and discussion about orientation materials sent to members which included information about Committee, web resources, background on programs, historical timeline, and slides about the 3R's, link between climate change and materials, zero waste, what happens to City collected trash and recycling, the link between materials and natural resources/pollution, highlights of the City's compost initiatives, extended producer responsibility, how to donate/recycle textiles, furniture, etc, opt out of junk mail, and how to reduce packaging.
- **Elections of Officers.** Rob Gogan and Michael Orr are both interested in the Chair/Co-Chair positions, and Debby Knight is interested in Secretary. Randi will coordinate conference call with Rob & Keith before and after meetings. New format for minutes will be brief and include attendees, bullets of major discussion topics, identified needs, next steps, and date due/person responsible.
- **Identified Needs.**
 - Send RAC members past Committee positions on EPR, plastic bags/Styrofoam, and business recycling recommendations.
 - Continue RAC-CPAC joint discussion on EPR/materials.
 - Develop calendar of events for April-October for public outreach/education.
 - Discussion topics/action items: paint EPR, furniture reuse, waste sorts in March, input on plastic bag ban.
 - More info on how Cambridge trash generation compares to other MA communities, latest City demographics data, single stream flyer
- Meeting adjourned 9:35.