

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
January 10, 2007 Meeting – Minutes taken by Judy Nathans

Members Attending:

Rob Gogan, Harvard University; Paul Schlaver, Cambridge Consumers' Council; Cornelia Herzfeld, Cambridge resident; Judy Nathans, Cambridge resident; Robert Winters, Cambridge resident

Guests Attending:

Kelly Dunn, Recycling Program Manager; Randi Mail, Recycling Director; Jim Ardolino, Superintendent of Solid Waste

Introductions

Jim Ardolino, the new Solid Waste Superintendent was present so Randi asked each member to introduce themselves, tell a little about their background with the RAC and talk about a topic that they would like to work on more. Topics mentioned included:

- ✓ Business recycling (Cornelia)
- ✓ Public area recycling and not buying bottled water (Paul)
- ✓ School recycling (Judy)
- ✓ Zero waste by 2020 at Harvard, single stream and community-university partnerships on reuse (Rob)
- ✓ Composting at businesses and homes (Robert)

Kelly discussed her efforts to improve recycling the 350+ large apartment buildings and her plans to organize the Recyclemania contest for paper in the public schools this year. Randi said that her 5-year anniversary working for the City was coming up in July and said that she was proud of the community recycling forum that the Committee organized in 2003 and would like to see another one.

Jim talked about his experience working at the Casella-operated transfer station in Holliston that accepts 850 tons/day. In the early 90s, he worked at a wood recycling company in Peabody. He talked about his concern about the large amount of cardboard in the trash and proposed that instead of enforcing it be 3"x3" and flat, that the DPW may start a pilot project to take all oversized cardboard, in dedicated packer truck. He talked about the need for more education, especially in East Cambridge. The Committee then discussed views about where there is opportunity to get different populations to recycle more, whether it is based on income, education level or language spoken.

Random Tidbits

- ✓ Tom Riordan, the new Compliance Officer has been issuing warnings and tickets to homeowners and business owners that are not complying with the new trash regulations. Trash set out after 6pm the day before collection must be in a barrel with a tight-fitting lid, no plastic bags overnight. Currently payment on tickets is about 30%. The Committee stressed that education occur with tenants as well as owners.
- ✓ Randi announced that she has posted a results-oriented internship to hire a graduate student to work on increasing business recycling by doing inspection and education and reaching out to commercial landlords with several business tenants. The intern would also help recruit nominees for the Go Green

business awards. Rob brought up MassDEP's recent waste ban enforcement, <<MORE. He said that there are three ways to approach business recycling: enforcement, a good thing from the City's perspective and a good thing for an improved public image of the business.

- ✓ Randi updated the Committee on an internship with a Brandeis student named Brenda Namazzi who has been outreaching to local hardware stores to set up in-store recycling programs for fluorescent bulbs. The local hardware stores that agreed to accept them are: Tags Ace, Inman Square, Masse, Dickson Brothers and Economy. This information will be posted on the DPW website along with a press release. Brenda is also reaching out to retailers of computers and televisions to see if they would consider a similar in-store recycling take-back program. Paul mentioned that Walmart is promoting energy-efficient bulbs to their customers and Kelly said that the Environmental Defense Fund had been working with the company on their environmental policies. <<MORE
- ✓ Update on the composting grant project. Randi said about 500 tons had been collected since mid-September when the route began. Save That Stuff is averaging 6-8 tons per day and have just over 23 customers. <<<MORE. 15 tons per day is the ultimate goal to week to make program the route cost-effective. John Connolly, the consultant is wrapping up his recruitment efforts and focusing on writing up his report, so STS will recruit additional customers.
- ✓ Kelly reported that she will soon do a mailing to all large apartment building property owners indicating how she has graded their multi-family buildings in terms of recycling. 83% of all big buildings have an A or B status. The letters will detail technical assistance and equipment available from DPW. The Committee then discusses recycling at Cambridge Housing Authority buildings as well as specific management companies (First Realty, Investments Limited, etc.) DPW hopes to recruit George Gannon, CHA Director of Facilities to the RAC. It was suggested that a new award category for "best property management company" be added to the Go Green awards and possibly for the best CHA property.
- ✓ Other topics discussed briefly: Judy's letter to the MA Dept of Revenue and newspaper recycling at the T.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am