

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
January 14, 2015 - Minutes Taken by Joanna Vanden

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

Members absent: Laura Nichols, Keith Cialino

Staff present: Meryl Brott, Kelly Dunn, John Fitzgerald

Guests: Helen Snively, resident, Adam Mitchell, Save that Stuff

Housekeeping: The December minutes were approved. No Public comment.

Discussion Topics/City Updates

Plastic Bag Ban Update:

Council met in December to consider the plastic bag ordinance supported by the RAC. Council asked ordinance committee to consider nine different revisions to original ordinance. City Council will review again on 2/11/15.

WeUse Furniture App:

WeUse Furniture App is designed to divert bulk furniture away from landfills and into the hands of those who want it. The app will undergo beta testing shortly and RAC members may be asked to participate via email invitations.

Ordinance Update:

The RAC is continuing to review the recycling ordinance. Please be prepared to submit any outstanding comments

Paint Stewardship Letter Review

Committee member Debby Galef shared a draft letter to be sent to Public Works Commissioner Owen O’Riordan for his comments and support. City staff will work together to edit the letter before sending to Owen O’Riordan. Rob Gogan will inform the committee of key dates regarding the upcoming submission of the bill to legislature. City Staff will provide an update at the Feb RAC meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Materials management in city’s waste and climate goals

This subcommittee established four goals for 2015: 1) 5 Year Plan to achieve 16 lbs/household, 2) Review DPW webpage 3) Follow up with DPW on rodent control and trash can size; and 4) Continue working along CPAC.

School curriculum on waste reduction

This committee will: 1) check in with Owen O’Riordan regarding public school curriculum discussions; 2) Speak with City Sprouts regarding program curriculum; and 3) Reassess Green Team/curriculum as a priority area.

Recycling outreach budget review and plans for outreach campaign on 5Rs

The committee will outline definitive options for the use of unspent funds and to develop evaluation criteria. Joanna will create a document identifying spending options and decision making criteria for distribution to the entire sub-committee by Friday, 01/23/15.

Action Items

- RAC members to provide comments on recycling ordinance—ongoing
- RAC members to provide comments on paint stewardship letter by 01/16/15 and staff members to incorporate those comments and submit to Public Works Commissioner. Rob Gogan will notify committee of any legislation dates.
- Two sub-committees will have follow-up calls scheduled by Kelly Dunn: Materials and Outreach groups.

Tonnage Update

Calendar year 2014 curbside recycling: 9315 tons, 0% increase over calendar year 2013

Calendar year 2014 curbside trash: 14936 tons, 1% decrease over calendar year 2013

Calendar year 2014 curbside trash generation rate: 18.2 lbs/HH/week, down from 18.4lbs/HH/week in calendar year 2013 (based on 31,500 HH’s that receive city trash service)

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.