

## City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

May 14, 2014 – Minutes Taken by Janet Mosley

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

- **Housekeeping.** The committee approved April minutes. No public comments, meeting notice to be sent to CC list in future. Review of follow-up items included 5/8 furniture subcom concall to organize a Repair Cafe in fall 2014 (identifying requirements, location, date, etc). Member check-in included furniture donation campaign efforts (JV & JM), a business eco-audit program by high school students for the fall (Meera), Harvard Move-Out and volunteer needs, and recent/upcoming tabling outreach (Debby G, Meera, Joanna, Rob, Laura).
- **Tonnage Update.** For Apr 2014 vs. Apr 2013, tons recycled: 805 tons, up 9.7% from 734 tons. Tons disposed\*: 1250 tons up .6 % from 1242 tons. \*Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 households, public schools and city buildings. No 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. Now at 18.3 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.
- **City Program Updates.** Update on organics pilot, collected 19,000+ lbs to date (~6.5 lb/HH/wk, 87% setout rate. Sherman St drop-off site pilot approved through Aug 30, 2014. Randi will present on program 6/3 at the NE Municipal Recycling Council meeting and 6/26 in an EPA national webinar. Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance hearing held 4/17 (RM, KC, RG & DG attended). Lots of public comment, Council passed motion to look at a set of changes and considerations. DPW working on revised draft "Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance" for internal review first. On Council agenda soon. Changes include checkout bag fee, clarified definitions, review of exemptions. RM & RG participated in the 4/22 "Sustainability in Cambridge Conversation" event and gave a compost workshop after. RM was invited to participate in the Cambridge Compact Recycling Working Group.
- **Outreach/Tabling.** Discussed tabling logistics. Paulie Kelsey helps coordinate, email [pkelsey@cambridgema.gov](mailto:pkelsey@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-4876. To prepare, review [online FAQs](#), bring slidebook binder, and talking points for current outreach & upcoming collections.

### Upcoming events for volunteering include:

5/15-5/18: Santo Cristo Feast, East Cambridge (varies)

5/17: Bicycle Ride, Joan Lorenz Park (9am – 2pm)

5/17: Central Square Fair, University Park (2pm – 8pm)

**5/31: Fresh Pond Day, (11am-3pm)**

6/3: HHW, Volpe Center (9am – 1pm)

6/10: Lowell Street Park, Family Day (10am – 5pm)

**6/14 (raindate 6/21): Hoyt Field, Hoops 'N' Health (10am – 8pm)**

6/22: Day of Portugal Parade & Sidewalk Fair, St. Anthony's Church Yard (1pm – 3pm)

6/22: City Dance Party, Mass. Ave. by City Hall (7-11pm)

- **Donate Furniture Campaign.** A phone bank held 5/5 to call residents about furniture donation (RM, PK, JM & JV). ~ 200 HH called. Flyers posted major squares, though need more in Kendall. Team has contacted realtors, movers, property managers, off-campus housing offices, etc. Now focusing on Twitter and Facebook. DPW will host a Harvard GSD student this summer to finalize app to assist furniture reuse. Discussion about particleboard furniture.
- **Identified Action Plan / Decisions**
  - RM to recreate CC list for meetings for future mtgs, will send RAC market update from Casella, 4/17 Ordinance Hearing minutes, and Globe Direct agreements, find out eGov status on publishing recycling/trash tonnage info, brainstorm on more PR for Sherman St food drop-off, develop Google Doc for outreach tabling sign-ups
  - **DK** will continue to help ensure action items are on track for completion between meetings.
  - **All members, ASAP:** 1) Promote furniture donation! Post flyers, Facebook/Twitter, and at tabling, 2) volunteers needed for curb surveys of furniture 5/26-5/31, 3) **Need 2-3 more volunteers 5/19 5:30-7:30pm 2<sup>nd</sup>** phone bank
  - **JM** to work with Randi to put ad on Craigslist for furniture program – asap
  - **MV** research particle/pressed board furniture – for presentation at June mtg
  - **DG** present research on mattress reuse/EPR at June mtg
- **Member Announcements**
  - Styrofoam Recycling events held at the Somerville DPW yard, 1 Franey Rd. Saturday, June 14th 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned 9:30.