

City of Cambridge

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3

ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, MAY 3, 1978

MEETING CONVENED BY COUNCILLOR DUEHAY AT 7:15 P. M.

TOPIC DISCUSSED

Recycling

Councillor Duehay opened the meeting explaining he had scheduled a series of environment meetings in order to identify and, where possible, find solutions to various problems regarding our environment. Further, he stated, he wanted to discuss long range proposals for solid waste disposal.

Mr. William Ryan, Administrative Assistant to PWD Commissioner Fagone, stated that the approximate cost of operating the last recycling program was \$100,000 and the level of participation and rate of revenue return was extremely low. He further stated that he believed Commissioner Fagone would reimplement a recycling program if the City Manager provided specific money within the budget.

Mrs. Ruth Birkoff and Ms. Joell Brown both stated they thought redesigning the public works trucks with racks for collecting paper would reduce the overall cost of picking up paper for recycling.

Councillor Duehay reminded the group that one of the most important aspects of any recycling activity was a comprehensive public education program for both residents of Cambridge and public works employees.

Ms. Nancy Bellows, Executive Secretary to the Conservation Commission, responded by saying that as far back as 1972 the Commission expended some \$3,000 for a public information program on recycling which consisted of flyers and handout leaflets. She further stated that currently the Environmental Protection Agency has money available for municipalities to conduct community education programs on recycling.

Mr. Richard Winkly, representing Metropolitan Ecology Workshop, Boston, MA, stated that he didn't believe a city should go into the recycling business, but rather, they should contract it out to a public non-profit organization such as the Metropolitan Ecology Workshop.

Councillor Duehay stated he felt it was premature to make any decision at this time but requested additional information.

Mrs. Birkoff stated that in her view it was imperative that the City Council urge strongly to the City Manager that he fund a recycling program, because without such emphasis, a recycling program will never happen.

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PENDING REPORT

A report from the Commissioner of Public Works was requested relative to the proposal of using one truck and only two men to pick up papers on either a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Also requested from the Commissioner was a report on the feasibility of putting racks on trucks for paper collection and designating two drop off centers. These drop off centers should be centrally located, clean areas. It was noted that the previous drop off center was at the city dump and most items could not be recycled because of a high bacteria content. Furthermore, it was suggested that the first major effort for recycling be concentrated on paper only and then move on to glass and cans.

A proposal for operating a recycling program for Cambridge was requested from the Metropolitan Ecology Workshop.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P. M.

For the Committee,

Councillor Francis A. Duehay
Chairman

S-226

Comm. from C. Duchay transmitting a report
from the Committee on Environment.

In City Council,
May 22, 1978

5/22/78

Placed on File