

Donna Conkling

From: timothy.d.foley@gmail.com on behalf of Timothy Foley <tim@commanderfoley.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:47 PM
To: Clerk's Department
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Changes to Recycling Pickup Schedule

Dear Mayor, Trustees and members of the Conservation Advisory Council,

I am writing on behalf of a dozen households within the Bramlee Heights neighborhood to provide informal, "sense of the neighborhood" feedback on the proposed changes to the recycling schedule within the Village.

Before providing that feedback, I wish to make two important caveats. The first is that the Bramlee Heights Neighborhood Association is not currently functioning, and this is not an official statement of that Neighborhood Association. It does not have dues-paying members, elected officers, or a clear decision making process by which it can provide official statements on Village policy. I did, however, reach out to an email list of residents who had indicated they were open to being better informed about Village issues in the future. I received a dozen responses – far from a statistically significant sample – and the respondents were self-selected. Therefore, the comments below should be considered aggregated feedback from individuals rather than a representative sample of the neighborhood.

Nevertheless, I hope this feedback is helpful in making your ultimate decision.

A large majority of respondents (9 of 12) favor the change to weekly pick up of recyclables. About half of those in favor consider themselves to be strongly in favor, with most citing that their household receives many packages in this age of e-shopping, as well as increasing amount of recyclables generated from groceries and household items. Many of those in favor believe that they would use recycling services more often if the scheduled pickup was more frequent. A couple of respondents are also in favor of the food scrap recycling pickup as a valuable service.

It should be noted that nearly all of the respondents in our neighborhood already bring their commingled recyclables to the curb. Only one respondent had commingled recyclables picked up anywhere else on his property. It could be because many of the driveways in the neighborhood are on the small side (under 12 feet long) or because residents were unaware that other pickup arrangements were possible. I will confess that until this proposal came out, I myself had assumed everyone in the Village had their recyclables picked up at the curb, as my family has done since we moved here. This makes the proposal pretty straightforward for households in our situation to support, since we get the increased service without sacrifice of convenience. Incidentally, this includes some respondents who are over the age of 65 and who currently bring their recyclables to the curb.

We did have two respondents who were in favor of keeping the currently biweekly schedule. One resident currently has a pick-up not at the curb. Although he sees the value in the new arrangement, he works during the day, and is not able to bring the bins back to their spot by the house until the evening. He is concerned that his bins will blow into the street during the day. The second respondent thought the current arrangement was sufficient for her household's needs, and there would not be a benefit to more frequent pickup.

Finally, we had one respondent who thinks either arrangement would be fine for her household.

We hope this feedback is useful, and thank you for your consideration!

Tim Foley
Acting President
Bramlee Heights Neighborhood Association