



Zero Waste Arlington February 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/27/25

Time: 7pm

Location: Location: 51 Grove Street Arlington MA; 2nd floor conference room

Minute taker: Jim

Attendees:

Committee Members: Jennifer Campbell, Paul Goldberg, Emily Dertz, Jim Ballin, Scott Mullen, Sarah Kmetz, Larry Slotnick, Margie Bell, Charlotte Milan

Non-Members: Rachel Oliveri, Ed Blundell

Agenda

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve [January 2025 ZWA Meeting Minutes](#) (5 minutes)
2. Ongoing Business
 - a. 2025 warrant article (25 minutes)
 - b. Zero Waste Town plan next steps (25 minutes)
 - c. Recycling Coordinator update (10 minutes)
 - d. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update (5 minutes)
 - e. Subcommittee Reports (15 minutes)
 - i. Reduce Single Use
 - ii. Zero Waste Town plan
 - iii. Legislative
 - iv. Community Engagement
 - v. Residential Food Waste Diversion
3. New Business

Minutes

1. Old Business
 - a. Reviewed and approved January 2025 ZWA meeting minutes: Paul corrected that "Plastic Stewardship Council" in the Legislative Subcommittee report should have read: "MA Product Stewardship Council."

(Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstention)

2. Ongoing Business

a. 2025 warrant article

- Update from Margie. Decided on resolution (like Lexington). No request for funds but build support this year
- There will be no presentation to the Select Board on resolutions prior to Town Meeting
- The Select Board Report to Town Meeting is due April 11 and we should aim to have our resolution language prior to that date
- Margie will talk with Town Moderator re: Resolution language and timing
- Also discussed presenting ZWA Town Meeting report and can highlight the resolution in that report as well
- Everyone should provide feedback within a week on both presentation and resolution
- After incorporating comments, we will request feedback on the draft resolution language with School Committee, DPW, SB chair, and others (no need for precinct meeting presentations)
- Discussion about whether to include amount that may be needed for a consultant in the future but not current request
- Include Town's overall waste cost to highlight low cost of plan relative to waste hauling costs
- Discussed who would present to Town Meeting. Margie may not be available late May. No decision on who would lead if Margie can't do it

b. Zero Waste Town plan next steps

- MA DEP mtg - 4 ways to align with state resources. Mully shared notes. Set up mtg w/ MAPC (could they help coordinate multi-community effort on a ZW plan?)
- Some consultants already on state contract which could allow us to bypass the procurement process
- Margie is coordinating with Talia Fox on Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP). That plan accounts for Arlington's emissions, but not focused on Arlington's waste. When they update the NZAP, we can ask them to include broader waste reduction goals into that plan as well
- Mike Rademacher wants to see resolution and will provide comment
- In general, Arlington waste tonnage is going down but costs continue to rise. Goal is that waste reduction plan could help lower how much these costs continue to rise
- Margie reported that nearly half of communities in MA have pay as you throw plans, and in those communities there has been a 29% reduction in waste with pay as you throw. Charlotte stated that Arlington's long standing practice has been to provide trash services as part of taxpayer services and we are unlikely to go to full pay as you throw. More likely is a

hybrid method that includes a minimum waste amount at no cost and charge for extra waste.

- Margie mentioned that some communities have been able to provide curbside composting by switching to every other week trash service
- c. Recycling Coordinator update:
 - No signed contract for waste hauling but should be soon. They are determining how many containers they will need to procure
 - Swap shed opening indoors on March 8 and 9
- d. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update
 - New updated school waste diversion policy approved by school committee
 - Includes all waste diversion activities
 - Holds school district to waste diversion goals
 - Students working on climate resolution to school committee, including education, infrastructure, and waste
- e. Subcommittee Reports (15 minutes)
 - Reduce Single Use
 - Zero Waste Town plan
 - Legislative
 - New legislative session. At least 50 bills on EPR, single use plastics, and expanded bottle bill
 - Paul encourages reaching out to state reps regarding transparency in state gov't
 - Community Engagement
 - Residential Food Waste Diversion

3. New Business

- a. Mtg w/ Ashley Maher regarding Town Day planning (Emily, Margie, Jennifer) - discussed the following goals:
 - Water truck placement: crosswalk of Court St. and Mass Ave
 - ZWA booth will be next to water truck
 - Reduce single use - application form update and moving participating restaurants together
 - We can post links on Town Day website
 - Only town employees on Town Day Planning Committee right now; we are seeking input from Ashley on whether a ZWA volunteer (or Charlotte) can join
- b. Town wide everything is free day.
 - Emily will connect with Karen Turer who organizes a neighborhood event each year.
 - Emily, Jim, and Larry will coordinate with Charlotte and put together a request to Charlotte that she can share with Town officials to get town buy-in.
 - She may be able to promote in a Town wide notice as part of Ecofest week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm..

Next meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2025 Minute taker: Sarah