



Zero Waste Arlington May 2025 - Minutes

Date: 5/29/25

Time: 7pm

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

Attendees:

Committee members: Priya Sankalia, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Scott Mullen, Sarah Kmetz, Jennifer Campbell, Emily Dertz, Jim Ballin, Charlotte Milan

Non-Members: Rachel Oliveri

Minute submitted by: Priya

Agenda

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve [April 2025 ZWA Meeting Minutes](#) (5 minutes)
2. Ongoing Business
 - a. Town Meeting update (15 minutes)
 - i. ZWA [Annual Report](#) to Town Meeting
 - ii. [Article 79 Zero Waste Resolution](#)
 - iii. Next steps
 - b. Town decision on 64 gallon trash cart size (15 minutes)
 - i. Next steps
 - ii. Town Meeting member [letter to Select Board](#)
 - iii. Vote on ZWA [letter to Town Manager](#)
 - c. Swan place water filling station - future planning and next steps (15 minutes)
 - d. Water bottle collection update - Swap Shed, schools (5 minutes)
 - e. Town Day booth sign up (5 minutes)
 - f. Summer meeting schedule and July co-chair vote (5 minutes)
 - g. Recycling Coordinator update (10 minutes)
 - h. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update (5 minutes)
 - i. Subcommittee Reports (5 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

Reviewed and approved April ZWA meeting minutes
Unanimous vote to approve (5 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions)

2. Ongoing Business

2a. Town Meeting Update

- Priya delivered the report to Town Meeting on May 12 and Jim presented the resolution on May 28th.
- Next Steps:
 - Amy, Emily, Margie will strategize on funding as a next step. Might get delayed because of the other tasks on their plate.
 - Priya referenced the conversation started with Kristen Fritsch
 - Charlotte: If you go over 10K then you have to go through the RFP (procurement) process. If they are on the state contract then you don't. Charlotte can help with that.
 - Amy, Emily, and Margie will regroup on this.

2b. Town decision on 64 gallon trash cart size

Discussion:

- Larry: We should edit and send the final letter to the Town Manager.
- Now there is no fee for changing size - this wasn't communicated earlier.
- Charlotte: There are a lot of people getting a lot of feedback. She doesn't think the program should be creating a hardship. These are typical things communities go through. Some start up pains that the town will have to work through.
- The committee discussed the issues with the communication from the Town about the cart size and how the Town Manager has not responded to our meeting request and also how we were not treated as partners.
 - The Town Manager left the decision to the Select Board and they made the decision.
 - There was a perception that we were involved in this decision when we weren't.
- Emily: Hopefully it will make people think about what they are throwing away. It has to fit in the bin and it is less than the 96 gal we are currently allowed.
- Jennifer - discussed the letters. Next step - as a committee here is our response - let's work on the letter and make additional edits and at the next meeting we can vote on it.
- Amy - with the resolution how can we leverage that to work with the Town Manager and the Select Board for the next contract in 5 years?
- Mully - Recycling Partnership is a plastics industry trade group/lobbying group. It appears that they are funding us to buy the bigger carts.
- Look at the FY26 budget and the line items for waste - use it for the Zero Waste plan - to manage the limited budget.
- Work on the letter remotely and schedule a zoom meeting for next week to vote on it.
- Amy: What if we change the letter to be more high-level; that we want to work with the Town and the Town Manager about how we'd like to partner with you.

- Jim: Let's focus on the future and not litigate the process.
- Plan on meeting June 12th on Google meet

2c. Swan Place

- Larry will get paid.
- There's been a change of ownership. Larry has been in touch with the new owner. He has not agreed on any specific \$ amount with them. We could offer a sign with their name
- Sarah thinks the \$250 that we paid is reasonable.
- Amy has an issue with the fact that we are paying a private owner.
- Larry agrees but we did not invest in the infrastructure.
- Jim - made a motion for Larry to offer \$250 to the owner.
- Committee voted 8 yes, 1 no (Amy voted no)

2d. Water bottle collection update - Swap Shed, schools (5 minutes)

- Jennifer checked in with the Swap Shed and they have been collecting bottles.
- There is storage space at the Swap shed and so they can live there till Town Day.
- We can collect them from the schools as schools wrap up. Amy will work with Rachel on that
- They can be cleaned at the UU Church along with the Beer Garden cups

2e. Town Day booth sign up (5 minutes)

- Emily - the sign up is done.
- Emily gave the update on their conversation with Ashley.
 - The water truck will be at the same location as last year.
 - The ZWA booth will be next to the booth.
 - Reduce Single Use will be at the same spot.
 - The form that the vendors will fill out has an option asking them if they want to be part of the RSU program - that's a win for us.
 - Colocation - that was not something that Ashley could do beforehand. Once everyone is signed up she can look at it again as best she can she will try to put everyone together.
 - Ashley is willing to put more information on the Town Site about the RSU program.

2f. Charlotte

- Nothing to add.
- The committee offered help if Charlotte needed it with the cart rollout.

2g. Rachel Update

- 7 schools are getting awards from MassDEP - Green Team awards. Ottoson and Gibbs have the highest awards
- Food services and Rachel have applied for a grant to the MassDEP. The Director seems to be open to using reusables in the schools. It's what the grant is for but if we don't get it there might be other sources of funding for it.

2h. Subcommittee Reports

1. Reduce Single Use - Beer Garden. Emily and Amy updated the committee
 - a. Natasha has been a great partner.
 - b. Arlington Brewing company reached out before they were even picked.

- c. We have an agreement on how we're going to work with him. He will pay us \$200 per session for washing the cups (that will cover 50 for UU church and hire high school students that will get paid for their effort).
 - d. He is going to pay for a loss rate - we're splitting the cost of the cup. He will have signage at the bar with education.
 - e. We will be doing this for 6 events at the Res.
2. Legislative Committee
 - a. The committees are all still working on the bills - paint, mattresses, and packaging.
 3. Residential Food Waste Diversion
 - a. Mully and Jim met briefly on this topic.

3. New Business

- Summer Schedule for meetings:
 - June 12, July 17 - we need to elect new co-chairs.
 - Also vote on membership renewal. Check on terms expiring.
- Priya talked about the free yard sale in Dallin and how we can leverage that for the playbook.
 - Priya to put the Dallin volunteer in touch with Sarah.

Meeting adjourned: 8:31pm