



## Zero Waste Arlington April 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/17/25

Time: 7pm

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

### Attendees

Committee Members: Jennifer Campbell, Paul Goldberg, Jim Ballin, Scott Mullen, Margie Bell, Amy Speare, Larry Slotnik

Non-Members: Rachel Oliveri, Monika Chas (community member)

Note taker: Amy

### Agenda

1. Old Business
  - a. Review and approve [March 2025 ZWA Meeting Minutes](#) (5 minutes)
2. Ongoing Business
  - a. 2025 warrant article & Zero Waste Town Plan (10 minutes)
  - b. Town Meeting planning (10 minutes)
    - i. Warrant article presentation
    - ii. Vote on ZWA [Annual Report to Town Meeting](#)
  - c. Select Board decision on 64 gallon trash cart size - recap and next steps (15 minutes)
  - d. Swan place water filling station - future planning and vote on water usage payment (15 minutes)
  - e. EcoFest Summit, April 26 (10 minutes)
  - f. Recycling Coordinator update (10 minutes)
  - g. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update (5 minutes)
  - h. Subcommittee Reports (10 minutes)
    - i. Reduce Single Use
    - ii. Zero Waste Town plan
    - iii. Legislative
    - iv. Community Engagement
    - v. Residential Food Waste Diversion
3. New Business

### Minutes

4. Old Business
  - a. Review and approve [March 2025 ZWA Meeting Minutes](#)
    - i. approved minutes 5-0, 2 abstentions (Amy and Larry were absent for March meeting)

## 5. Ongoing Business

- a. 2025 Town Meeting Resolution for Zero Waste Town Plan
  - i. Amy emailed Resolution text to Superintendent of Schools (Liz Homan) and School Committee chair of Policy Subcommittee (Len Kardon) - no feedback received
  - ii. Eric Helmuth has reviewed Resolution text and presentation and has nothing to add
  - iii. Margie reviewed Resolution text and presentation with Mike Rademacher and Charlotte Milan and incorporated their feedback
  - iv. Jim will set up meeting with Town Manager Jim Feeney to discuss purpose and goal of the Resolution prior to our presentation at Town Meeting
  - v. Margie will send final Resolution language to Town Counsel Mike Cunningham, no changes expected
  - vi. [Zero Waste Resolution Report to TM](#) - Article 79 Zero Waste Resolution Report to Town Meeting: this document is finalized.
    1. The committee unanimously (7-0) supports the development of a Zero Waste Plan as a proactive and responsible approach to environmental stewardship. We recognize its potential to reduce waste incineration, conserve resources, and promote a healthier, more sustainable community.
- b. Town Meeting planning
  - i. Warrant article presentation
    1. Jim will be the presenter.
  - ii. Vote on ZWA [Annual Report to Town Meeting](#)
    1. Approved the [ZWA Committee Annual Report for TM](#) (a summary of 2024 ZWA activities), 7-0 vote
  - iii. Amy will post ZWA Annual Report and Resolution on ZWA website
- c. Select Board decision on 64 gallon trash cart size - recap and next steps
  - i. On 4/7 the Select Board debated and voted on the size of the new trash bins that will be distributed to every residence as part of the new waste hauling contract that will begin July 1
    1. The Town had already chosen 64 gallon recycling bins
    2. SB debated between 33, 45 and 64 gallon trash bins and voted 3-2 for the 64 gallon bin (John Hurd, Steve Decourcey, Diane Mahon in favor, Eric Helmuth and Len Diggins against (both supporting a 33 gallon bin)
    3. Amy & Jim attended in person and spoke during Open Comment period in favor of the 33 gallon bin. Margie, Jennifer and Emily emailed similar statements to the SB.
    4. Committee is frustrated about the process, lack of creativity to find flexible solutions, the lack of discussion about the \$350k DEP grant if 33 gallon bins were chosen, and the rising cost of waste hauling. Jim & Jennifer will write a letter to Jim Feeney expressing the Committee's frustration and asking to be a partner in future discussions.
- d. Swan place water filling station - future planning and vote on water usage payment
  - i. The issue is that this unit is owned/managed by the tenant (Greek Habits) and there is no separate water meter on the refill station to

- determine exactly how much water is used
- ii. In 2024, Larry negotiated with the tenant a cost of \$1/day for water usage from April - Nov and he paid Greek Habits \$250 for the season
  1. Committee voted 6-0 (Larry abstained) to reimburse Larry for this expense
- iii. The committee agrees that this is not a model we want to continue, but that the Town is likely not willing to install a meter on the unit because it is not in a Town building
- iv. Alternatives
  1. If the tenant is not willing to pay for the water, we let it go and remove the AoT signage.
  2. The Town installs a unit in the vicinity (Mass DEP or Mystic River Watershed could be funding sources), but that is not likely due to lack of infrastructure.
- v. Actions
  1. Jim will contact Jim Feeney and ask for advice on how to resolve the issue
  2. Mully is researching comps from Bedford and Lexington to give us a sense of water usage at their units
- vi. Discussion about future refill stations
  1. New AHS refill station at Peirce Field toilet building should come online August 2025
  2. Robbins Farm Park unit should be activated this spring when other Town stations are turned on (~mid/late April)
  3. Mystic River DEP project to renovate the recreation paths along the river - possible opportunity to install stations?
    - a. Jim has contact at Mystic River Watershed and will reach out
- e. EcoFest Summit, April 26
  - i. ZWA will have a table
  - ii. ZWA has been offered a 'workshop' presentation slot at 1:30pm. Amy will present slides similar to what was presented at the Environmental Leadership Summit last fall.
- f. Subcommittee Reports
  - i. Reduce Single Use
    1. Margie provided follow up on summer Res Beer Garden events.
      - a. Margie & Emily met with Natasha (Rec Dep Director), who was very supportive of our efforts.
      - b. Unfortunately, Natasha's staff is unable to help with washing
      - c. Proposed alternative is that ZWA partners with Recirclable in order to be able to pay teens/college students to wash reusable cups this summer. Cost of washing will be paid for by a fee collected from Arlington Beer Company (who pays Recirclable directly). Committee is comfortable with this plan. Margie & Amy will meet with ABC on next steps.

Note: we ran out of time for remaining subcommittee reports or update from Arlington  
Schools Sustainability Project Manager

Meeting adjourned 8:42pm  
Next Meeting: May 15, 7pm