



Zero Waste Arlington July 2025 – Minutes

Date: 7/17/25

Time: 7pm

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

Attendees: Jim Ballin, Jennifer Campbell, Emily Dertz, Paul Goldberg, Sarah Kmetz, Larry Slotnick, Amy Speare

Non-Members: Rachel Oliveri, Eileen English, Jan Pagliasotti

Minute submitted by: Jennifer Campbell

Agenda

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve [June 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) (5 minutes)
2. Ongoing Business
 - a. Vote on ZWA committee terms due for renewal (5 minutes)
 - b. Co-chair nominations and vote (15 minutes)
 - c. Zero Waste Town Plan - next steps and implementation (10 minutes)
 - d. Social media communications re: old trash and recycling bin drop off options (10 minutes)
 - e. Town Day planning - 9/20/25 (15 minutes)
 - f. Recycling Coordinator update (10 minutes)
 - g. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update (5 minutes)
 - h. 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

Meeting Minutes

1. Old Business

- a. Review and approve [June 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

Call to review minutes by Jim. Motion for approval by Amy, second by Larry, all members present in June voted in favor (5 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions).

2. Ongoing Business

a. Vote on ZWA committee terms due for renewal

Paul's committee term is expiring in 2025. Motion to reappoint Paul by Amy, second by Jim, unanimous vote by all members in attendance (7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions).

b. Co-chair nominations and vote

Committee unanimously voted on Emily Dertz and Amy Speare as the new ZWA Co-chairs with one-year terms (7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention).

We discussed ways to make the meetings more inclusive and to offer a virtual option. Charlotte has access to a Town Zoom account. Priya is looking into the Town Hall Annex as a location. The Arlington Community Safety Building also has an upstairs room where hybrid meetings can be held. We will check Open Meeting laws to ensure we meet requirements but explore the hybrid option to encourage greater participation.

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c. Zero Waste Town Plan - next steps and implementation

Amy has been in touch with Eric Helmuth regarding getting on the Select Board agenda to present on our Town Zero Waste plan. He recommended scheduling 4-6 weeks in advance and presenting in October. Our goals will be to educate the board about ZWA and get their buy-in and partnership for funding and implementing the Zero Waste Plan. The presentation should be around 10 minutes, followed by Q&A.

Eric recommends meeting in advance with Jim Feeney, as we will need his support for devoting town resources (i.e. budget, staff time) to a Zero Waste plan in the next fiscal year, especially with an override anticipated late next spring. The Board will defer to him as the top budget officer for the town.

The committee started discussing next steps for the Zero Waste Plan:

Funding sources

1. Ideally funding would come from the Town itself:
 - ☒ RDP funds - check with Charlotte.
 - ☒ DPW budget - spending about 1% of DPW Solid Waste budget on a strategic Zero Waste plan can identify waste savings opportunities now, as well as have us better prepared to negotiate our next contract. As a point of reference, the town increased the Solid Waste budget in FY2025 by \$250K in anticipation of increased contract cost. We don't know what the final contract numbers are. Had the Town chosen to adopt smaller bin sizes, we might have been eligible for \$350-500K in MassDEP funding.
2. Grants the town could apply for - the Town would need to drive these applications:
 - ☒ [SMRP](#) - grants can be used for waste reduction projects, including "professional services"
 - ☒ [MVP Grant](#)
 - ☒ [Community Compact Grant](#)

- Meet with Charlotte in August/September to discuss pathways for Town funding.
- Develop 1 page of talking points in advance on why we need this ZW plan and potential cost savings for the Town.
- Jim, Larry, Margie will convene on these talking points.

RFP draft

- Leverage [what other towns and cities have done](#)
- Emily and Jennifer will work on this
- Carol Lurie also offered help in drafting RFP

Communication Plan - connect with town stakeholders, build stronger connections, gather representatives to provide input on RFP

- Select Board
- DPW - Mike R. and Deputy Director
- Sustainable Arlington
- Talia Fox
- School (Superintendent, School Committee, Denise)
- Jim Feeney

Larry offered to participate in these meetings. Ultimately everyone will be asked to help with outreach.

d. Social media communications re: old trash and recycling bin drop off options

We discussed whether ZWA should do anything to communicate about what residents can do with their old trash and recycling bins. We decided that [communication from the Town](#) and others on Arlington List seems clear; there is probably no need for ZWA to add their own postings.

e. Town Day planning - 9/20/25

Sarah will circulate Volunteer Sign Up form. Committee members will sign up first, then we'll circulate the list to the Google group for volunteers.

Emily submitted the ZWA booth applications and got confirmation that they were received. Amy will reach out to Ashley M. re: restaurant participation and confirmation of our new requested booth locations.

Mully ordered new T-shirts. Larry ordered the new tent. Larry will check on the rest of the tent equipment before Town Day.

Jennifer will organize a sorting event for the water bottles being collected at the Swap Shed. Emily, Amy, Sarah, and Priya offered to help with this. Next steps: circulate a Doodle poll for a date and reach out to Karen Li and Charlotte/Rachel regarding a time to sort the bottles.

Next Swap Shed is 7/31. 33 Ryder is not normally non-accessible at other times; however, either Charlotte or Rachel could let us in. The high school's Project Zero table space is available as a work space.

The best time to wash all of the bottles at once is at the UU church during the next Beer Garden Night on August 7, so pick up and sort the bottles before then.

f. Recycling Coordinator update - n/a; Charlotte away

g. Arlington Schools Sustainability Project Manager update

Rachel's Earth Corps Environmental Leadership Camp for 6-8 grade students is in session; she gave a shout out to ZWA and our water filling stations during their recent walk past the Hurd Field and Reservoir units.

Rachel is also working on a grant to expand reusables in the schools.

h. Subcommittee Reports

- i. Reduce Single Use - Beer gardens reusables are going well; use of reusable cups continues to grow and loss is down to 3-5%, thanks in part to new and more visible stickers, signage, and orange collectible bins. Recreation Department has been doing the set up and has been a great partner in this event.
- ii. Zero Waste Town plan - see above
- iii. Legislative - Paul and Mully submitted testimony in writing in support of Rep. Michelle Ciccolo's bill. They are also following the Mass Ready Act, filed by Governor Maura Healey, which is a comprehensive bill around strengthening infrastructure and preparing for climate change that also includes several provisions related to single-use plastics, etc. The bill is currently under review by the Joint Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Paul continues to attend meetings of the Mass Stewardship Council. In the past they have focused on extended producer responsibility; currently they are focused on batteries, textiles, paint, etc.

- iv. Community Engagement - no current updates; we'll be calling for volunteers for Town Day soon.
- v. Residential Food Waste Diversion - may be moved into Zero Waste Plan; Jim may plan a future meeting with Charlotte and Mully to discuss.
- vi. Other - Swan Place update: ownership is still in the process of changing hands and they still have not agreed to let Larry turn on the water. Larry will remove the ZWA Arlington on Tap sign to avoid the impression that we are neglecting this unit.



3. New Business

- Larry: should we consider renaming ourselves Zero (or Solid) Waste Advisory Committee to elevate our stature within the Town and ensure we have a seat at the table for future discussions? A name change would require a bylaw change. This could be a future agenda item or a recommendation that comes out of the Zero Waste Plan, either for ZWA itself or for a separate advisory group.
- Next meeting is August 21, which is the same night as the Beer Garden reusables event. We decided not to reschedule but to move the meeting to 6:30-8pm to allow extra time to get to both events.
- Laura Kiesel from Save Arlington Wildlife reached out re: presenting to ZWA on fishing line waste, including an education initiative/signage, clean-up options, and potentially a recycling program. We will invite her to present at an upcoming meeting.

Paul made motion to adjourn; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.