

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 2/9/12

Present: Co-Chairs Juli Brazile, Gordon Jamieson, DPW Assistant Director Teresa DeBenedictis, DPW Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan, Sue Stamps, Eric Helmuth, Brackett School Green Initiative Member Erika Riddington, Secretary Pete Howard

1. Introductions: Erika was welcomed.
2. DPW news/announcements: Charlotte was congratulated on her new position with DPW. This is the first time in several years that this part time position has been filled. She has many tasks to take care of. She will be paid from the Art 35 Fund which consists of revenues from recycling, mostly sale of white goods (discarded appliances).
3. Report on trash contract presentation to Selectmen: DPW Director Rademacher described the Town's next Solid Waste Collection Contract with JRM Hauling & Recycling (Ref 1). Recycling is an important part of JRM's business. The contract contains several features that should encourage recycling. It will cost somewhat less than the present contract. The BoS enthusiastically endorsed the contract. Encouraged by Juli, ARC members in the audience held signs urging a 50% diversion (recycling) goal. Although no vote was taken, the DPW memo explicitly assumes this goal. This would be consistent with the State's solid waste plan. Arlington's diversion has leveled off around 30% in recent months (Ref 2) and may have decreased recently, perhaps because of the heavy destruction associated with the late fall storms. The diversion rate is computed using weight data provided mostly by the hauler as follows:
$$\frac{\text{solid waste (including bulky waste)}}{\text{(solid waste+recycling+white goods+yard waste +e-waste)}}$$
4. On-going discussion: waste reduction strategies
 - a. Thanks to Juli's design & coordination, the auto excise tax mailing will include a 1/3 sheet flyer that explains single stream & the e-waste initiative at DPW. Refer to our January minutes.
 - b. Uncle Sam posters and surveys to schools: Teresa found a box of 150 Uncle Sam posters. These posters, however, show the old web site. Eric arranged a link from that URL to the Town's recycling site. We need to find out how many posters we need for distribution to all classrooms (supported by the Superintendent) and Town offices. Juli will follow up on the number needed. Charlotte will draft a survey to be distributed with the posters to begin to reconstitute a recycling coordinator school network.
 - c. What sort of info campaign regarding new trash contract? Best to wait until JRM begins. We should consider doing a buckslip in the summer tax bill. Timing and content will depend on what JRM and DPW are doing.
5. Committee memberships update: Gordon will update the membership list with a memo to the Moderator. Members will include: Gordon, Juli, Pete, Eric, Nigel, Peggy, Sue, and Charlotte (ex officio). There is room for another.

6. Library/Got Books bin – Teresa said there is no room in the parking lot but she will look for a spot behind the gate in the Town Yard. The bin would be intended for use for the Library only and payments from Got Books would go to the Friends of the Libraries.

7. New business:

a. Erika described Green Initiatives, a Brackett parents group focused on energy, water & waste. Their initial project involved developing a baseline understanding of the cafeteria waste stream. To this end they asked the students to separate their waste after lunch into separate containers for liquids, food, paper & trays. They then weighed the containers. Over a week, the average total waste was 70 lb of which 35 lb was food scraps. There were about 4 gallons of liquid and 2 large trash bags of Styrofoam trays. They are now planning to compost the food scraps. Erika asked for suggestions and got lots. The ARC enthusiastically supports this effort.

b. The ARC will buy a half page add in the AHS G&S production program as it has done before. We voted \$75 from the Art 35 Fund.

c. The ARC will not have a separate table at EcoFest this year. We will work at the DPW table.

d. The Mystic River Watershed Assoc will host a program on rain gardens 3/22 at 7 PM in the Senior Center.

Schedule of future meetings - First Thursday of each month: 3/1, 4/5, 5/3