



Arlington Recycling Committee  
Minutes of 5/4/17

Members: Paul Goldberg (Interim Co-chair), Larry Slotnick (Interim Co-chair), Ellen Callaway Karen Einstein, Juli Brazile, Dori Mazor, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan  
Residents: Priya Sankalia

## 1. Regular Business

Introductions – We introduced ourselves and welcomed Priya, who shared her experiences working on a local zero waste project in India.

Minutes – The draft minutes of 4-6-17 were accepted as corrected.

Recycling Coordinator's Report – Charlotte did a quick update and reminded us that she will probably only share a written report every few months. Rot & Roll just finished (the afternoon of May 4) and there was good turnout. They sold 12 compost bins, residents picked up rain barrels they had purchased through a town program that offers a discount for coordinated pick up days such as this. Several new people have been participating in the shared compost bin program and Charlotte has their contact information if we need to do follow up with them. Community Collection Day is May 13 and will run the same as last year. Sign up to volunteer if you haven't already – the link was sent to the email list a couple of weeks ago. The town trash & recycling guide is being revised now to be mailed in July. Charlotte thinks it will likely expand to six pages. Dori suggested that it include more information about textile recycling. Charlotte is planning to add more detail about hazardous waste and the Recycling Center, and possibly options for food scrap recycling. Charlotte has proposed a "swap shed" to the Director of DPW. The current concept is to have a shed on wheels that can travel to events around town and would begin with simple items like arts/craft or office supplies. Charlotte believes that it could develop into an enterprise where volunteers re-package donations and profits could fund a club at the middle school or high school. A small planning group includes educators and Charlotte will report as plans develop.

## 2. Current and Future Activities that Increase Our Visibility

Update on Facebook – Karen reported that we have created the page. Juli and Karen are editors and Rebecca will be once she resolves some technical difficulties. Karen would like to start posting information about common recycling questions starting with plastic film. We shared ideas and Charlotte encouraged her to always link to a source and not spend time writing up details herself. Ellen has a nice picture and we can use it and link back to her page for credit. Charlotte thought we should consider liking pages of groups like Food Link and Sustainable Arlington since we will reach a wider audience that way. Juli says we will share the page to the ARC list once we had more content and then ask everyone to share widely to build likes.

ACMi Workshop – Larry, Karen and Rebecca met with Jonathan, the studio manager, to review plans to shoot a video about food scrap recycling. Jonathan suggested they make the first video very short. It will cover the first two topics of the seven food scrap ideas Larry presented. They have begun storyboarding their ideas and will meet again with Jonathan. Priya indicated she has some time during the week and might be interested in being involved.

Plugged In, Volunteer Speed Date Event – Paul represented ARC at the event, which included 11 volunteer organizations. There were very few attendees, but he collected two names and has contacted them to let them know about our meetings and will follow up to see what interests them.

Textile Hack-a-Thon – Charlotte reported this was part of larger effort to educate people about textile recycling. Sadly, no students entered the video contest, but the competition among the elementary schools to collect the most pounds of textiles was fierce. Pierce School won with 2000 pounds of textiles and doubled the amount that the next closet school collected. Charlotte notes that she was contacted by GoodWill to discuss their desire that we not encourage donations to them of unusable clothing, although they do accept them. Charlotte asked Dori to help her find effective wording.

Green Team in Patriot's Day Parade – Members of Green Teams from several schools marched with School Recycling Coordinator Rachel Oliveri. The kids chanted about recycling and the crowd seemed impressed by their spirit.

Feast of the East is June 17 – Larry proposes that ARC register for a table at the event, which costs \$45. Several people volunteered to help at the event and a small group will meet to work on detailed plans.

Other events were announced: Charlotte announced Sustainable Arlington's forum on the New Economy with a panel of local speakers as part of an Arlington Community Ed program at Arlington High School on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Current Budget for FY2017**

Larry and Dori presented seven ideas for expenditures that would help us with outreach at events like Feast of the East. Concerns were raised about printing items when we don't really have a logo. The Uncle Sam design was our logo for a few years, but some people have found the expression on Sam's face is too stern for children and we may want to design something new. However, that is a tricky process that takes time or more money than we may be able to spend and if we want any materials for Feast of the East, we don't have a lot of design time. In the end, we decided to allocate some money toward design fees and to purchase smaller numbers of items that will test people's interest in them. We can print more once we have a logo and a concept we feel we can invest in with confidence. The following expenditures were approved:

\$1000 for design costs

\$300 for two banners (48 x 24 for a table and 96 x 10 for a 10' tent)

The table banner will probably be just the words Arlington Recycling Committee since we don't have a logo. We didn't discuss design ideas for the tent banner.

\$500 for 4 x 6 magnets

The magnets may be similar to something Food Link has to remind people how to evaluate expired foods. Dori can design something simple. Ellen expressed some reservations about magnets since they aren't recyclable, but overall we feel they may be a useful education tool.

\$100 for Feast of the East expenses (registration and additional supplies as needed)

\$300 for recycling barrels to raffle at the event

If we spend all \$2200, we will have a little more than \$500 to consider at our June meeting. Charlotte says we can create a purchase order through the town that will set money aside so it doesn't disappear at the end of the fiscal year. That may help us pay a designer since the work may not be done by the end of June.

### **4. Green Teams at Elementary Schools – How can we work collaboratively?**

We did not discuss this but hope to invite Rachel Oliveri to a future meeting.

### **5. New Business**

None

### **6. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

Dori suggested re-ordering the agendas so that we do updates at the end and people will be more likely to keep it short. Juli suggested emailing items like the budget proposal in advance. Ellen noted she would have liked to taken time to rank each of the items presented.

NEXT MEETING 6/1/17 – Most meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Adjourned at 9:10 pm

Minutes submitted by Juli Brazile