



Arlington Recycling Committee  
Minutes of 2/2/17

PRESENT

Members: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Paul Goldberg, Ellen Callaway, Larry Slotnick, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan  
Residents: Dori Mazor

MINUTES of 1/12/16 as printed.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** No written report this month since we don't have updated tonnage numbers yet. Charlotte is working now on reports for the MADEP that allow us to apply for grants. More elementary schools are adding composting programs and using the same collection service. Charlotte hopes that standardizing the process will make it easier for more schools to sign up as well.

**RECYCLE RIGHT:** We reviewed the schedule (Ref 1) and added new topics. Paul – what happens to recyclable materials after they are processed, Feb 23; Larry – introduce food scrap recycling term and two different ways to think about it, Mar 9. Charlotte will spend a lot of time focusing her articles from DPW on textile recycling. Studies indicate 15-20 percent of trash is textiles and could be diverted. Juli will share the google doc with the Recycle Right schedule so people can add ideas to it and hopefully shorten our discussions at meetings.

**EFFECTIVE MEETINGS:** We discussed ideas for making our meetings more productive. Start on time and we agreed that it should always be a goal to end at 9 pm. Some people have to leave on time and we should always attempt to keep our conversations focused. We will use time estimates on our agendas to make it more apparent when a conversation has gone on too long. We need to let people share their ideas fully and consider them before arguing against them. At the end of each meeting we should take 5 minutes to review how it went and agree on the major topics for the next meeting.

**2017 GOALS AND STRATEGIES:** Paul noted that **educating children** about recycling tends to have a large impact when they take that information home. We will ask the new School Sustainability Coordinator to come to a meeting soon and talk about the programs in the schools. **Kitchen scraps** in the trash is heavy, making that an important target. The state has set a goal to reduce tonnage by 2020 and we need to reduce about 1500 tons annually to meet the goal. Dori suggested that we build a campaign and find many ways to publicize the options. If we make **composting/kitchen scrap recycling** a major theme, we focus on backyards, curbside services, sharing with neighbors, etc. We don't know if there are good measures that will tell us we are making progress, aside from reducing overall trash tonnage. We should address some the barriers to composting and help people one-on-one the way Larry has been installing bins for people. If we create info sheets they can go on the webpage and be shared through the Town Facebook. Some people argue that **plastic bags** are a serious problem. Charlotte noted that DPW will take the lead on educating people about not putting them out curbside. A local group has put a bag ban on the warrant for town meeting and we should discuss if we want to endorse the article. Juli will contact the group and ask them to come talk with us in March. We may want to do surveys on trash and recycling habits to get a baseline. Composting is included in the 2017 Annual Town Survey so that piece will be available to us. Since we hadn't reached firm decisions, we will continue the discussion in March.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Juli and Gordon are resigning as co-chairs. They both intend to attend the next few meetings to help with the transition to a new chair or co-chairs. We'll take time at the next meeting to discuss more details and work out how to run things during the transition. Juli intends to stay on as a member indefinitely. Gordon will stay until June.

**MEETING WRAP UP:** We agreed that our two big topics next month would be the leadership transition and the continuing discussion about setting goals for 2017.

**NEXT MEETING** 3/2/17 – Most meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Attachments:

Ref 1 – Recycle Right Schedule