



**Sustainable Arlington
an Envision Arlington environment committee**

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 23th, 2019

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**Location: Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor Conference Room,
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA**

In Attendance: Brucie Moulton, Sue Doctorow, Dwi Jayanthi, Jilly Nguyen, Susan Bran, Amos Meeks, Ezekiel Wheeler, Tom Ehbrecht, Charyl Dressler, Bruce Johnson, Kelly Lynema, Ken Garden, Scott Samenfeld, David Landskov, Rainer Dressler, Bruce Johnson

1. Introductions
2. Guests from Southeast Asia!
3. Approve minutes
 - a. Unanimously approved
4. Hear from Sue Doctorow about Solar Panels in Historic Districts
 - a. Lives in Mt. Gilboa historic district.
 - b. Historic district commission rules on whether or not a house can have them based largely on aesthetics.
 - c. Several neighbors had plans for solar panels rejected in 2017.
 - d. HDC is determined by the state, not the town. Chapter 40c. Town bylaws lay out what the HDC can or can't do. HDC sets their own design guidelines. 12 people, appointed by Town manager.
 - e. Should we pass a town bylaw for solar panels? Should we get the commission to change its design guidelines? Both?
 - f. Should we aim for a broader zoning change? Consider that zoning bylaws require a supermajority to change, and HDC takes priority over zoning bylaws. Also consider getting onto the net zero plan committee.
5. Update from Planning Dept.
 - a. RFP for sustainable transportation plan is up (on the town procurement site), 7 groups showed up for information.
 - b. Dedicated bus lane is active and permanent now.
6. Landscaping, pollinators, and climate change

- a. Lawns are the single biggest agricultural crop in the country by area. It's a nonnative monocrop. Lots of negative effects of lawn maintenance. Can we work with local landscapers to make it more sustainable?
 - b. Note that any companies trying to change their practices will lose customers as they learn, and then will be outcompeted by competitors doing worse things. Thus whatever change they make needs to be more profitable enough for it to be worth it to them.
- 7. Report on Select Board vote regarding non-binding resolution on the Act For Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE Act).
- 8. Nov 3 Fix It Clinic and Clothing Swap
- 9. Precinct Meetings for community resiliency, talk to your TMMs.
- 10. Sustainable Arlington Interests Discussion
 - a. Deferred
- 11. New business
 - a. Weymouth compressor station letter to insurers signing
 - i. Discussed, will vote in a future meeting.
- 12. Announcements
 - a. HeatSmart Extended through October 31st
 - b. Medford Fixit Clinic October 26th
 - c. Arlington Fixit Clinic and Clothing Swap, November 3rd, Thompson Elementary School 1 to 4pm.
 - d. Save the Date: EcoFest 2020 Sat. March 21st. Tentative theme: Climate Resiliency
 - i. Perhaps also include sustainable landscapes
 - e. Talking about climate change training Nov. 30th in Worcester.
 - f. EcoFest Planning meeting Oct 26th 3pm at Café Nero
 - g. Master plan hearing 11am-1pm October 29th
 - h. FUTURE Act Hearing Nov. 12th.
 - i. Climate Coffee to bring different groups together. Either this Sunday or following Friday.
- 13. Adjourn