



**Sustainable Arlington  
an Envision Arlington environment committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 26th, 2020  
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
Location: Town Hall Annex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA

**Attendees:**

Louisa Peppe, Margot Moomaw, Sarah Hill, Gail McCormick, Scott Samenfeld, Steve Revilak, Kelly Lynema, Roger Rosen, Ken Garden, Amos Meeks, Juli Brazile, Sue Doctrow, Tom Ehbrecht, Bruce Moulton, Cecily Miller, Tina Halfpenny

1. Introductions
2. Approve minutes
3. Update from Planning Dept.
  - a. Ken is working with Jill Manca on a new CCA opt up plan. New CCA website launching soon with related campaign. Note from preliminary survey results, 87% of respondents were interested in opting up.
  - b. Clean Heat For Arlington public meeting tomorrow at
  - c. Sustainable Transportation Plan underway. Will be multiple opportunities for engagement by May. Trying to create a 20 year vision for getting around Arlington.
  - d. LimeBike has ended their program. Town is working with BlueBikes and MAPC for a regional contract. Probably stations focused on parts of Arlington with higher population density, possibly not extending beyond the center unless we can get Lexington signed on. Trying to expand out from Cambridge/Somerville.
4. Clean Heat for Arlington Presentation
5. Vote to support resolution in favor of sustainable energy and energy efficiency devices in Historic Districts
  - a. Sue lives in a historic district and her neighbor's solar panels were rejected solely on aesthetic grounds. Other have had solar panels approved that don't show from the street, or that show but match the color of the roof.
  - b. Town Counsel suggested that state law requires the HDC to review these projects, so Town Meeting can't say that they can't review them. However, we can at least try to pass a non-binding resolution.
  - c. Asking the HDC to be more lenient for solar panels and heat pumps.

- d. Sue is also considering if state law can be changed. State law says that paint is not included, so neighbors can paint their house whatever color they want, so making aesthetic arguments doesn't make much sense.
  - e. HDC sets their own design guidelines, and they can amend them. Might be reasonable to set up a meeting with the chair.
  - f. HDC covers something like 300-500 homes.
  - g. Vote to support the resolution unanimously approved.
6. EcoFest Update, tasks, volunteers, publicity
7. "No Mow for Pollinators" discussion
- a. Issue is the precipitous decline in pollinator populations.
  - b. Relevant book: "Nature's Best Home: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard" by Douglas W. Tallamy.
  - c. Idea is a pilot No Mow strip on public land. Or maybe we can do it over as much as possible? Saves the Town money and effort. Would need to monitor for invasives.
  - d. Cecily thinks there may be a way to do an art project around this. Maybe also nurseries for Monarch butterflies.
  - e. Tina has tried to get the Town not to mow their Monarch waystation that the green team does, but the Town mows twice a year and outsources it, so it's not always the same crew, and they would rip up signs and fences.
  - f. We will form a subgroup to work on this. Interested people should get in touch with Brucie.
  - g. Lexington is already doing these No Mow areas. We will get in touch and figure out how they are doing it.
8. Juli Brazile to talk about Envision Arlington Vacancy, Standing Committee Chair – affects all Task Groups and their committees, including Sustainable Arlington
- a. Standing Committee manages task groups and managed budgets for task groups, manages overall Town Survey.
  - b. Juli is stepping down as chair of standing committee.
  - c. Would we want to recreate older model where members of task groups chair the standing committee?
  - d. Next meeting is Weds. March 11<sup>th</sup>
  - e. If there is no chair things might get missed, Town day booth, Town survey, precinct meetings, etc.
  - f. Being on the committee gives you a good overview of the various things going on around Town.
  - g. There are also vacancies for just members of the committee.
9. New business
10. Announcements
- a. Next meeting date moved to Wednesday before EcoFest, March 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Take the Envision Arlington Town Survey by Feb 29<sup>th</sup>  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W3T28CW>
  - c. "Carbon Countdown." Public Invited. MA Climate & Energy Legislation: Important Updates & Next Steps, Winchester. Feb. 29, 9:30 am – 12 noon, Register at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/carbon-countdown-tickets-91911155741](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/carbon-countdown-tickets-91911155741)
  - d. Local Environmental Action Conference: Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, Northeastern University, tickets at [www.localenvironmentalaction.org](http://www.localenvironmentalaction.org)

- e. EcoFest 2020 Sat. March 21<sup>st</sup>. Theme: Community & Climate Resiliency
- f. Fixit Clinic and Clothing Swap: Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thompson Elementary School. Find Fixit clinic in other communities:  
<http://www.boltonlocal.org/initiatives/repair-cafe>
- g. Climate Coffe March 4 at 6pm, Café Nero

11. Adjourn