



**Sustainable Arlington  
An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington  
Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Registration required; link: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rf-qrrz4qGNMKW8WmvRZ-qoWYsbUnZUu6>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by telephone dial-in information provided above.

If you have not used Zoom before, please join the meeting 5 to 10 minutes early. At the start of the meeting, we will:

1. Confirm first and last name of everyone on the call for the minutes and make sure that everyone can hear each other
2. Read Preamble to Remote Meetings
3. Introduce all members, staff, and persons on the agenda
4. Review “ground rules” for online meetings
5. Meeting materials will be available online through Novus or Town website for the public

**Agenda for May 26, 2021**

1. Introductions
2. Update from Planning Dept.
3. April minutes. read here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aR9PlweEL1PTqYV6P\\_SKtD404W1oiY7slmBYz4SsZc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aR9PlweEL1PTqYV6P_SKtD404W1oiY7slmBYz4SsZc/edit)
4. EcoWeek recap. video contest [EcoWeek Video Contest](#) and other [EcoWeek events](#)

5. Focus areas per last meeting - who can take the lead and what are the next steps?  
Some people have already signed up and more are welcome
  - a. Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan – collaborate with the Net Zero Action Plan Implementation Working Group. . [Press Release](#). [Net Zero Action Plan](#).
  - b. Transition off fossil fuels – outreach re: why, when, how
  - c. Local ecosystem(s) support in Arlington:
    - i. Water quality
    - ii. Soil health
    - iii. Native plant and wildlife systems
  - d. Environmental Justice
    - i. How does environmental justice apply in Arlington, in nearby communities, and across Massachusetts? What does it mean to be an ally? (see resources below)
6. Arlington Community Education, <https://www.arlingtoncommunityed.org/> Sustainable Arlington has an opportunity to propose fall class ideas. We will need to confirm by mid June. Current ideas include the following. Refinements and alternative suggestions welcome.
  - a. Citizen science for the environment, Invite Claire O'Neill, founder of Earthwise Aware, <https://www.earthwiseaware.org/>
  - b. What does Net Zero mean & how do we get there as a community? Could be a panel discussion with Q&A.
  - c. Meet your building envelope: understanding what it is and why it matters. This ties into getting to Net Zero and it already matters to every single homeowner and building manager. The condition of your building envelope affects heating and cooling costs as well as occupant health and comfort.
  - d. Pollinator Support All Year. Getting your garden ready for the winter? What will you do to help native pollinators during the colder months? How you prepare your garden for the winter - and how you wake it up in the spring - make all the difference. Learn about leaving some leaves, which plants provide winter havens, and the value of each yard to our pollinator populations. We'll also talk about some native plants and shrubs you might add to your garden for next year's growing season. Find out why what you plant matters and get some planting lists as guides.
7. Announcements
  - e. [Open Space and Recreation Plan](#): The planning process has started for an updated OSRP that will maintain the town's eligibility for state funding programs related to open spaces and recreation. **The first engagement event will be held on June 10 at 7pm.** Watch for a series of listening posts in open spaces and recreation areas throughout the summer to gather community input.
  - f. [Town Begins Work on Housing Plan: Related Questionnaire and June 9 Forum. The new housing plan will update the 2016 Housing Production Plan \(HPP\) consistent with state guidelines.](#) The Arlington community is invited to share feedback on a Community Questionnaire now, and save the date for a virtual public forum on June 9 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Details: [arlingtonma.gov/planning](http://arlingtonma.gov/planning).
8. Adjourn

Resources:

- [Environmental Justice](#), [mass.gov](#)
  - All people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.
- [Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts](#) [mass.gov](#)
  - Environmental Justice (EJ) Population Data from 2010 Census based upon demographic criteria developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- [map] [2010 Environmental Justice Populations Boston Metro](#)
- See: [publications and presentations on environmental justice](#) by [Prof. Marcos Luna](#), Salem State University

Visit Sustainable Arlington:

Website: <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sustainable%20arlington%20group>