



**Zero Waste Arlington  
January 2024 Special Meeting - Meeting Minutes  
DRAFT**

Date: 01/18/24

Time: 7pm

Location: 51 Grove Street Arlington MA; 2nd floor conference room

**Agenda**

1. Next steps for potential Skip the Stuff Bylaw amendment

Attendees: Priya Sankalia, Scott Mullen, Jennifer Campbell, Jim Ballin, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Amy Speare, Margie Bell, Charlotte Milan, Emily Dertz

- Updates on communication with Beth Locke and Eric Helmuth on bringing the Skip the Stuff by-law to Town Meeting
  - Emily updated the committee on meeting with Beth Locke and Katie Luczai - new town Eco Dev coordinator
  - Beth thinks the by-law would be a good idea but the discussion focused more on how ZWA can partner with her - it was more about building a relationship with her and the Chamber of Commerce. Larry added that she appreciated the call. She stressed the idea about communicating with restaurants who are members (because all are not). She could send out an email.
  - Partnership could be built by giving the restaurants resources to waste reduction
  - Katie Luczai - she was positive about Skip the Stuff - she was supportive of the warrant article but they thought that building the partnership was more critical. Maybe there are other things that maybe we could work together on.
  - Both have overlapping contacts for restaurant owners.
  - Amy - they think that Skip the Stuff was easy and it would pass easily. Bigger picture - there might be other things that we could do. Let's use these new established channels to develop conversations with the restaurants and build partnerships on Skip the Stuff.
  - Larry's idea - how do we get Katie to be more involved with helping us with publicity - coming from the town. Can we use the town website more effectively?

Maybe we could channel her enthusiasm. Emily said she meets with the 3 areas (Lake St, Center, Heights) on a quarterly basis.

- Margie - if we can recognize restaurants for their waste reduction efforts, through our social media and marketing channels, this will help towards building a collaborative, positive relationship with restaurants. Help them to save \$\$ through Skip the Stuff publicity. Perhaps town can also update webpage with restaurant recognition.
- We could take a 2-prong approach - to the restaurants and to the public. Put together a toolkit - program name, logo, social media campaign - we will always ask you if you want disposables - some messaging that restaurants can use.
- Put a card/flyer in the takeout meal with the information. It could be on their websites too. Ask the restaurants what would be the best way to get the message out with their customers - and then we can give them the tool for it.
- Final decision - we will not work on a by-law this year but focus on outreach and partnership building. We will re-evaluate at the end of the year.
- Margie thinks that we should push for Skip the Stuff on the state level. Meeting on Monday at the state house we should attend.
- Mully updated the committee on the bills at the State House - several of them are in Ways and Means, others were re-drafted. Maybe some of them will get consolidated.
- Charlotte - some outreach can be how bills work, what is skip the stuff, talk about black plastics, talk to the restaurants you like about.
- Comprehensive Hauler Regulation - what is it? The state was requiring that this was in place before we could get some funding but that is not the case anymore. The idea is to require an even playing field - regulations that help enforce the state requirement - so businesses, residents and all are following the same rules. A way for it to be enforced. - permitted hauler; they need comprehensive pricing. DEP is interested in this so Charlotte can get some information for them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15