

June 4, 2019

The Plastic Bags and Straws Ad Hoc Committee held a special meeting on this date at Stonington Human Services at 6:00 p.m. Present were Moira Deasy, Thaler Hefel, Erika Lebling, Jason Hine, Beth Markowski-Roop, Farrah Kaeser, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, Stacey Wilbur and Don Kluberdanz. One member of the public was present; however, the press was not.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Deasy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Minutes

Having sent the minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting to the committee prior to this meeting, the committee was able to review. A motion was made by Ms. Kaeser, seconded Ms. Markowski-Roop and passed unanimously to accept the minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None

(6) Old Business

Discussion – The committee will vote on either the Town of Stonington or Clean Up Sounds and Harbors (CUSH) to hold the budget.

Ms. Deasy reviewed the discussion from the May 14th meeting regarding the pros and cons of the Town of Stonington vs. CUSH holding the Plastic Bags and Straws ad hoc committee's budget. She also shared notes from her meeting with Rob Simmons. Ms. Simmons had asked the committee to prepare a \$1000 budget, so the committee discussed how to allocate funds. After brainstorming ideas of how to budget the \$1000, including website design, reusable bags, and Facebook boosts, the group agreed that \$500 would be earmarked for the logo contest prize, pending Town approval. \$100 would be allocated to a graphic designer to create a flyer for the logo contest, and \$400 would be earmarked for printing the flyer.

A motion was made by Ms. Markowski-Roop, seconded by Ms. Lebling, have CUSH hold the budget for the Plastic Bags and Straws ad hoc committee. Mr. Hefel abstained from voting as he is on the CUSH board, but the motion passed unanimously by the other members.

Presentation – The committee will report suggested changes to the Frequently Asked Questions.

Ms. Kaeser and Mr. Kluberdanz circulated a list of Frequently Asked Questions that they had carefully researched and edited since the last meeting. The committee will review the list prior to the next meeting and discuss any changes then.

Presentation – Ms. Deasy Will Report Her Research Findings on Website Capabilities

Ms. Deasy reported that the Plastic Bags and Straws committee has a webpage linked to the Town of Stonington's website. The committee has the ability to edit and add content; however, the look and theme of the page must stay in line with the Town's, nor can the committee add additional pages.

Discussion – Committee Will Discuss Incentives to Offer Businesses That Already Have Green Practices in Place.

The committee discussed how to recognize businesses that have already implemented green practices, but there were concerns about accidentally excluding businesses. Committee members will survey businesses to inquire about current practices.

Presentation – Ms. Markowski-Roop will present the logo contest outline.

Ms. Markowski-Roop circulated proposed logo contest rules based on similar contests in other towns. The committee discussed the timeline, the award, and the guidelines for the logo. Mr. Hefel noted that he knew a graphic designer who could aid in the creation of the flyer that would announce the contest. It was decided that the logo should be one color. The group discussed ordering high quality canvas bags to sell in addition to less expensive bags to distribute to the community for free.

(7) New Business

Discussion – The Committee Will Discussion Action Items to Complete Before the Next Meeting.

Ms. Deasy will meet with Big Y and Stop and Shop to discuss possible sponsorship opportunities.

Ms. Deasy, Mr. Hefel, Mr. Hine, Ms. Wilbur and Mr. Kluberanz will visit local businesses to inquire about their current green practices.

Ms. Markowski-Roop has ordered additional sample bags, and will continue to research pricing and color options. She will meet with Suzanne Harley about the possibility of designing the contest flyer. And she will draft the logo contest press release.

Ms. Kaeser will begin the process of setting up a Facebook page for the group.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Committee

Mr. Hine and Ms. Wilbur reported on their visit to Pawcatuck Middle School to work with the students who had written letters to the committee prior to the Town vote.

Ms. Lebling reported on her attendance at the May 21 North Stonington Board of Selectman meeting, where she presented the Stonington Plastic Bags and Straws ordinance. The North Stonington BOS was very receptive and is planning to pass a similar ordinance.

(10) Adjourn



Erika Lebling
Recording Secretary