

August 29, 2018

The Plastic Bags and Straws Ad Hoc Committee held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons, Moira Deasy, Erika Lebling, Thaler Hefel, Beth Markowski-Roop, Farrah Kaeser and Don Kluberanz. Jason Hine arrived at 6:47 p.m. Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan was absent. Also present was a member of the public. The press was not present.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Stuart Schwartzstein regarding forming the Ad Hoc Committee.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from a resident who stated they are against the ban of plastic bags.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Allan Allik regarding support of the ban on single use plastics.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Don Kluberanz regarding the ban of single use of plastics in Alaska.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Jean Gagnier of the Westerly Town Council who supplied the Committee with several ordinances from RI Municipalities regarding plastics.

(5) New Business

Review – Mission of the Committee

Mr. Simmons gave a brief overview of the mission of the Committee.

Discussion – Selection of Officers

Mr. Simmons discussed the role of the Chair and if the Committee felt they needed a Vice-Chair. The Committee agreed a Vice-Chair was needed. Mr. Simmons asked if anyone wished to serve in the capacity of Chair. Ms. Deasy and Mr. Hefel volunteered.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Markowski-Roop, seconded by Ms. Kaeser and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Deasy as the Chair and Mr. Hefel as the Vice-Chair.

Mr. Simmons discussed the role of Secretary and asked if anyone wished to serve in that capacity. Ms. Lebling volunteered.

A motion was made by Mr. Hefel, seconded by Ms. Deasy and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Lebling as the Secretary.

Review – Schedule Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Committee discussed how frequently they should be meeting and the time that worked best for the group. Ms. Haskell review location options.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kluberanz, seconded by Mr. Hefel and voted unanimously to meet at 6:00 p.m. bi-weekly beginning September 4th at Stonington Human Services through November.

Review – Meeting Format

Mr. Simmons and Ms. Haskell gave an overview of the format and procedures used when holding a meeting.

Review – Public Hearings

Mr. Simmons stated that the Committee may want to hold a public hearing in the future to discuss their findings with public as well as to hear the thoughts and concerns of the public.

Ms. Haskell gave an overview of the procedures used when holding a public hearing.

Discussion – Research and Travel to other Municipalities

Mr. Simmons stated that the group may want to consider reaching out to and meeting with other municipalities who have created ordinances regarding plastics to gather further information.

Ms. Deasy asked if anyone would be willing to travel to other municipalities. Mr. Hine, Ms. Markowski-Roop, Mr. Kluberanz and Ms. Kaeser volunteered.

Ms. Deasy asked that the Committee review all of the ordinances in their packets prior to the next meeting.

(6) Comments from the Public

None

(7) Comments from the Committee

- Mr. Hefel discussed his association with Trash Talk and how many people and businesses are supportive of those efforts. He added that Trash Talk will be kept separate from the Committee.
- Ms. Kaeser stated the importance of considering the disabled community when the Committee makes any actions or decisions and that she would like to ensure the Committee remains ADA compliant.

(8) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary