

September 4, 2018

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, Erika Lebling, Thaler Hefel, Beth Markowski-Roop, Farrah Kaeser, Jason Hine, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan and Don Kluberanz. First Selectman Rob Simmons left the meeting at 6:04pm. Also present was a member of the public. The press was not present.

**(1) Call to Order**

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

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

Mr. Simmons thanked the committee for their participation, and noted that the committee will encounter some individuals who are in favor of the mission, and some who are opposed. He commented that the First Selectman of North Stonington had expressed interest in creating a similar committee for a similar mission. Mr. Simmons said that he had sent the minutes from the first Ad Hoc Committee meeting, and the ordinance forming said committee to North Stonington's First Selectman.

**(4) Minutes**

Having sent the minutes from the previous meeting to the committee prior to this meeting, a motion was made by Ms. Hayes-Houlihan, seconded by Ms. Markowski-Roop, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

None.

**(6) Old Business**

**Review – Mission of the Committee**

After a discussion of the Mission Statement, it was determined that the words “doggie bags” were too confusing. A motion was made by Mr. Hine, seconded by Ms. Hayes-Houlihan, and passed unanimously to change “doggie bags” to “plastic take-out bags.” The remainder of the Mission Statement is to remain the same.

Due to the discussion of other disposables that the committee might consider banding, a motion was made by Mr. Kluberanz, seconded by Mr. Hefel and passed unanimously to revisit the discussion of addressing plastic carryout containers after 90 days.

**Discussion - Research and Travel to other Municipalities**

It was determined the Ms. Markowski- Roop and Mr. Kluberanz would research and travel to Middletown and Newport, while Mr. Hine and Ms. Kaeser would research and travel to Charlestown and Westerly.

A motion was made by Ms. Lebling, seconded by Mr. Hine and passed unanimously to contact and interview the (1) Town, (2) Chamber of Commerce, (3) one independent business, and (4) one franchise business at each municipality.

**(7) New Business**

**Discussion – Ordinances from other Municipalities**

There was a discussion comparing and contrasting the ordinances from the other Municipalities.

**Discussion – Objectives and Form Questions**

The committee brainstormed a list of possible questions for the other municipalities.

**Discussion – Assignments**

Ms. Deasy discussed assignments and deadlines.

Ms. Deasy and Ms. Lebling will perfect the list of questions for the other municipalities and distribute to the group.

Ms. Markowski- Roop, Mr. Kluberdanz, Mr. Hine and Ms. Kaeser will initiate meetings with the other Municipalities. The meetings shall be scheduled by the next meeting, and should be complete within 30 days.

Ms. Kaeser will compile environmental research specific to (1) the proposed restricted items and (2) the geographic area affected by the proposed restrictions. She will present her findings at the next meeting.

Ms. Deasy and Ms. Markowski- Roop will develop a list of survey questions for the Mystic Chamber of Commerce and Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Deasy and Mr. Hefel will conduct a survey of Mystic's Chamber of Commerce members including independent and franchise businesses.

Ms. Markowski- Roop will conduct a survey of Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce members in Stonington including independent and franchise businesses.

**(8) Comments from the Public**

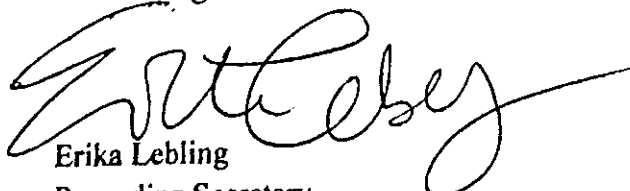
None

**(9) Comments from the Committee**

- Ms. Markowski- Roop reported findings of a discussion with the owners of 84 Tavern on Canal in Westerly, detailing the cost increase of using paper goods over plastic goods. She noted that some health codes prohibit certain products. She expressed her interest in providing incentives for businesses, and stated the fines collected during the enforcement of the proposed ordinance should go towards environmental education, etc. She noted that the Town of Stonington should not profit off these fines.
- Mr. Hefel expressed interested in meeting with Ledge Light Health District to understand the health code restrictions.

**(10) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Erika Lebling  
Recording Secretary