

September 18, 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, Thaler Hefel, Erika Lebling, Jason Hine, Stacey Wilbur and Don Kluberanz. 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

None

(4) Minutes

Having sent the minutes from the previous meeting to the committee prior to this meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Hefel, seconded by Mr. Hines, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None.

(6) Old Business

Discussion – Review the Questions for the Municipalities

The questions generated by the September 4th brainstorming session, had been revised and distributed to the committee prior to this meeting; however, the committee opted to review them. Mr. Hines read the questions aloud.

The committee discussed the word “ban” stated in the list of questions, and it was determined that the committee would be mindful moving forward of the connotations the word may have. It was suggested that “commercial ban” was specified.

Mr. Kluberanz asked if the questions could be sent to the municipalities ahead of the proposed meetings. It was agreed that was acceptable.

A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Hefel and passed unanimously to accept this list of questions as the list that will be asked of all municipalities.

Discussion – Discuss Progress of Assignments

Mr. Hines reported that he spoke with representatives from Charlestown, RI, and Westerly, RI. Both municipalities are working towards a similar ordinance, but have not passed one yet.

There was a discussion of Westport, CT, and Greenwich, CT, passing similar ordinances. Ms. Deasy volunteered to contact State Senator Heather Somers to discuss these ordinances further.

The committee discussed the deadline of next meeting, October 2, to bring forth reports from other municipalities.

Mr. Hefel presented compostable "plastic" cups and straws that he found at various establishments. There was a discussion of poly lactic acid (PLA) used to make these products.

Mr. Hefel brought data that the organization Surf Rider collected regarding trash found on the Connecticut coast.

Mr. Hefel reported on a meeting with Ledge Light Supervisor, and presented a health code regarding individually wrapped straws.

Mr. Hefel reported on a meeting with Two Little Fish owner, Tim Brennan, who converted entire restaurant to plastic-free, including his septic system.

Mr. Hefel reported on a meeting with Big Y director who mentioned that two other Big Y locations have already discontinued plastic bag use.

Mr. Hefel and Ms. Deasy agreed to investigate alternative products and report at the October 2 meeting.

(7) New Business

Discussion – Discuss Yellow Waste Disposal Trash Bags

The committee discussed the use of yellow waste disposal trash bags, and concluded that this topic is sensitive.

(8) Comments from the Public

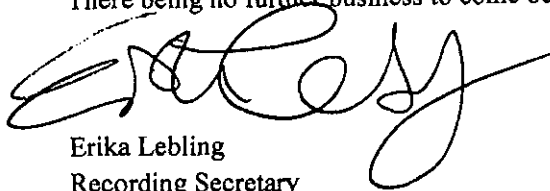
None

(9) Comments from the Committee

- Mr. Hines introduced the topic of involving the local schools in this project in some way.
- Ms. Wilbur commented that she would like to further discuss the possibilities of incentives and merit system for businesses who embrace green solutions.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Erika Lebling
Recording Secretary