

November 20, 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, Jason Hine, Beth Markowski-Roop, Farrah Kaeser, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, Stacey Wilbur and Don Kluberdanz. Also present was the press. Thaler Hefel 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, the committee was able to review. Ms. Deasy recommended that the minutes reflect that Ms. Peggy Roberts, who spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance, is the President of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce. A motion was made by Ms. Hayes-Houlihan, seconded by Ms. Markowski-Roop, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes with this change.

**(5) Correspondence**

None.

**(6) Old Business**

**Discussion- Review Public Hearing**

The committee discussed the positive feedback from November 13<sup>th</sup>'s Public Hearing, and concluded that there was a fair representation of the community including Chamber of Commerce, educators, and youth.

The committee reviewed the comments made in opposition to the proposed ordinance, including community members currently reusing plastic bags for trash bags, and one comment that the community should "educate, not legislate." The committee discussed ensuring that education was a component of the ordinance roll out.

**(7) New Business**

**Discussion – Discuss Incentive Program**

The committee discussed possible incentives for small businesses and how to enforce the ordinance. It was discussed that the 6-month roll out like Newport, RI will be key. Ms. Weber expressed concerns of creating this ordinance, but not having a way to enforce it, diminishing the value of the ordinance.

**Discussion – Finalize Draft Ordinance**

The committee discussed enforcement protocol to include in the draft ordinance. A motion was made by Ms. Kaeser to include in the ordinance a verbal warning for a violation, a \$150 fine for a second violation, etc, up to \$1000. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hine and passed unanimously.

**Discussion – Prepare Board of Selectman Report**

Ms. Deasy commented that she would like to enlist the help of Ms. Markowski-Roop to compile recommendations for the report to the Board of Selectman.

**(8) Comments from the Public**

None

**(9) Comments from the Committee**

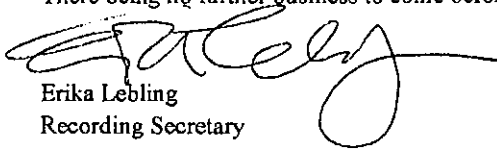
Ms. Markowski-Roop reported that a stranded sperm whale with a stomach full of plastic was trending on Twitter.

Mr. Hine expressed his concern that this movement could lose momentum easily if not acted upon in a timely fashion. He commented that he would like to stress the time sensitive nature of this ordinance.

Ms. Kaeser commented that she wanted to thank the committee members for open, compassionate conversations, especially as they related to how a straw ban would impact the disabled community.

**(10) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Lebling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erika Lebling  
Recording Secretary