

October 30, 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, Beth Markowski-Roop, Farrah Kaeser, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, and Don Kluberanz. Also present were members of the press and public. Stacey Wilbur 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 Ms. Markowski-Roop, seconded by Mr. Hefel, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None.

(6) Old Business

Presentation- Ms. Kaeser Presents Research Findings on Most Popular Types of Pollution in Bodies of Water

Ms. Kaeser noted that she had a packet of research that she would circulate to the group. She reported that the most popular types of trash found in the ocean are as follows:

1. Cigarette butts
2. Plastic beverage containers and bottles
3. Lids for plastic beverage containers and bottles
4. Food wrappers (i.e. candy bar wrappers)
5. Plastic bags.

Ms. Kaeser noted that plastic straws and stirrers ranked number 7 in the list, and that 1 billion plastic bags are used in Connecticut every year.

Ms. Kaeser met with Mary Ellen Mateleska from the Mystic Aquarium to discuss the Aquarium's plastic research. Ms. Kaeser's findings from that meeting were that the Aquarium is a plastic free facility, using biodegradable cutlery, but that plastic straws are available upon request.

Presentation- Ms. Hayes-Houlihan and Ms. Deasy Present Ideas for Incentives and Merit System

Ms. Hayes-Houlihan and Ms. Deasy were unable to meet prior to this meeting.

(7) New Business

Presentation – Mr. Kluberanz Presents Ordinance Verbiage Progress

Mr. Kluberanz circulated a copy of his draft ordinance and the committee reviewed it one paragraph at a time, making changes and suggestions as needed. There was a discussion of adding straws into the ordinance.

Discussion – Committee Members Discuss Possible Questions/Topics for Public Hearing

Due to time constraints, the committee was unable to discuss possible questions/topics for public hearing, but did decide that a meeting on November 6 would be essential to prepare for the public hearing.

(8) Comments from the Public

A Stonington High School Student asked if the committee was going to include in the ordinance a ban on plastic straws purchased in bulk from the grocery store. Ms. Deasy responded that that was not the committee's current intention.

(9) Comments from the Committee

None

(10) Adjourn

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



Erika Lebling
Recording Secretary