

Plastic Bag Bylaw Subcommittee

18 SEPTEMBER 2018 / 7:30 PM / Town Hall / Veterans' Hall

ATTENDEES

Martin Gordon (Chair), Rob Adams (Clerk), Two (2) Vacancies

Gary Fine (ABSENT)

TOPICS DISCUSSED

CALL TO ORDER

- GM calls meeting to order
- Welcomes Fondas Stamboulis (FS) as Business Community guest

Pembroke House of Pizza Representative

- GM introduces FS to the notion of a Plastic Bag Ban in Pembroke
- Parameters of proposed Ban
- GM "How do you think this kind of Ban would affect you ?"
- FS talks about quantity purchased by Pizza shop, costs, and rate of use
- RA "How much in inventory do you keep?"
 - FS "A box of 500."
- RA "How often do customers request a paper bag?"
 - FS "Sometimes, but not often."
- RA "In a given day how often would you give out a plastic bag?"
 - FS "Around fifty to sixty bags a day."
- FS Paper bags double my costs, but still minimal
- RA "How do you feel about the Town mandating you charge for a paper bag, say about ten or fifteen cents ?"
 - FS "For me it would be to my benefit as I spend less than that per bag."
- GM "How important do you think educating local businesses about a Ban would be ? Do you think it's a hardship for businesses not having that information today ?"

- FS “I can only speak for myself, but no. We keep only a minimal amount of inventory.”
- Group discusses space as being a primary issue for keeping any considerable inventory; Most businesses lack space to keep anything more than just-in-time inventory
- GM “Do you personally know of the environmental problem [posed] by plastic bags ?”
 - FS “I know about the ocean wildlife.”
 - RA “Or how about here compared to Greece ?”
 - FS “Oh my, horrible. Yes -- everywhere !”
- Recycling ?
 - FS “We have just one bin. We don’t recycle cardboard.”
 - RA discusses different waste contractors use two dumpsters, e.g. Cumberland Farms, one for general and another for cardboard only
 - Pooling with other small businesses in the Pizza shop’s complex
- Exchange of contact details between the three individuals present

ACCEPT MINUTES OF 13 September 2018

- GM motioned to accept minutes
- RA seconded
- All voted yea

UPDATED ON FILLING TWO (2) VACANCIES & DISCUSS BYLAW FORMULATION STRATEGIES

- GM noted we received an application
- GM went to North River Watershed Association
- GM gave an invitation for them to attend our meeting
- GM discussed with the Citizens’ Petition (CP) members present at their meeting his thoughts on the use of synthetic fibers in reusable bags
 - They noted that it is more important to pass Ban
- RA talked about using this idea to possibly build bridges between the groups
- RA and GM agreed it is worth pursuing their members to join efforts

DISCUSS GULNICK’S ARTICLE “The Deadly Plastic Bag”

- RA liked that the piece showed both sides of the argument for & against
- GM “He does a very good job of discussing both sides.”

- Plastic bags vs Paper bags
- GM & RA noted a third-way: emphasis on using reusable bags

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- GM motioned
- RA seconded
- All voted yea