

Board of Health Meeting

October 23, 2017

Present: Gerald Maher, Chairman, Tyler Nims, Vice-Chairman, Mark MacDonald, Clerk, Peter Falabella, Director of Public Health, Robert Valery, Assistant Director of Public Health

The Board of Health Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 Discussion re: Proposed Plastic Bags Bylaw. Carol Robinson, Jeanne Ryer, Rick Roche, Roche Brothers attending. This meeting is a follow up to the October 2, 2017 discussion.

Mr. Roche presented some information regarding the Mass Food Association policy stand on recycling and the use of plastic bags. He mentioned a few of the legislative initiatives in committee at the Massachusetts State House that address the issue in a different way than the proposed Bylaw. Mr. Roche stated that he also would prefer to see a standardized statewide response that would address the use of plastic bags, so that all stores would be facing consistent requirements in all Towns. He had the opinion that most consumers liked the use of plastic bags and used them responsibly.

Ms. Ryer stated that she did not think that the State would proceed with requirements on this matter unless many more towns continue to enact local legislation on plastic bags. She mentioned that January 2018 was the deadline for submission of the proposed Bylaw for the warrant for the Spring Town Meeting.

Gerald Maher did not think that the State would move forward quickly on this matter. He favors the elimination of plastic bag use (with no exemption for smaller retailers), and would prefer to see all Towns in the area also prohibit their use. After additional discussion, Mr. MacDonald stated that he would contact Rep. Cantwell to check on the status of any State legislation in Committee that addresses this subject.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ryer would check to see if any other neighboring Towns were moving on this issue. All parties would meet again before January, which is the deadline for submittal of Articles for Spring Town Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

