

RTM Public Health and Safety Committee
January 28, 2019
Darien Town Hall Room 119

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance: Sarah Baldwin, Colin Kelly, Lois Schneider, Nina Miller, Penelope Wilson, Holly Giordano, Jennifer Woodbury, Scott Zimmerman, Olive Hauser, Brian Rayhill, Laura Mosher, Sara Parent, Mac Patrick, Mia Handler, Gary Swenson

Committee Members Absent: Shannon Silsby

PH&S Chair Mac Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The committee unanimously approved the minutes of the 10/22/18 PH&S meeting.

Mr. Patrick introduced Frank Kemp, chair of the TGS&A committee of the RTM. Mr. Kemp was in attendance to discuss the proposed plastic bag ordinance. A summary of the proposed ordinance can be found on the town website, and on February 6th a public hearing on the ordinance will be held.

Mr. Kemp discussed the main issues facing this ordinance. The biggest issue is the legality of the 10 cent charge that business owners may impose for paper checkout bags. A second issue is determining the thickness/weight of plastic bags to be allowed under the ordinance. A lesser issue is enforcement of the ordinance, as the selectmen have stated they will only support the ordinance as long as no town resources go towards monitoring and administration of the ordinance.

Mr. Swenson asked about enforcement of similar ordinances in other towns. Mr. Kemp stated that most other towns have a different structure, and in many cases an environmental control officer in those towns is in charge of enforcement. In Darien, the best model for enforcement is the blight ordinance.

Ms. Handler asked why certain plastic bags are excluded (dry cleaning bags, for example). Mr. Kemp stated that these exemptions came from a template and can be adjusted.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Quarterly Report of the Darien Health Department. Topics discussed include the flu prevention program, radon testing, mosquitoes and ticks, and emergency preparedness.

Mac Patrick adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Woodbury.