

**RTM - Public Works Committee
Special Meeting Minutes 02/26/2019**

Attendees:

Monica McNally, Frank Adelman, David Bayne, Terrence Duffy, Patrick Keane, Lindsey Kelly, Arpita Muchhal, Rolf Obin, Richard Poli.

Absent:

Thomas Moore, Elisabeth Bacon, James Cameron.

The special meeting of the RTM - Public Works Committee was called to order at 7:41 pm by Chair -Monica McNally. The special meeting had quorum with 9 of 12 committee members present.

The minutes of the special meeting held 02-07-2019 were approved with 8 in favor and one abstention (R. Poli not at the meeting). The amendment and change was the date mentioned for the "grace period -OR - January 1, 2019" to read the "grace period -OR - January 1, 2020"

Committee members were briefed by Monica McNally on her visit to 11 local business owners to gather input and feedback from the local business community regarding the potential ordinance. Mrs. McNally was accompanied by the first Selectman - Jayme Stevenson. Items discussed were: the types of bags currently used by merchants, current bag inventories, sourcing of bags, potential 10 cent fee for checkout bags, costs, and concerns.

The committee discussed and reviewed a sample of states that have enacted some form of bag management. It looked at mil requirement, recyclable requirements, and fees. The committee reviewed examples of varying bag mils.

The committee discussed draft 2.0 "Ordinance for the Management of Plastic Bags in Darien". This draft had been discussed at the RTM - TGS & A committee on 02/25/2019.

After discussing, the committee felt the potential ordinance should have a distinction between large "franchise" stores and "independent stores". This would potentially have the desired effect of reducing the majority of single use thin plastic bags while giving the smaller business owners time to use their existing inventories and make adjustments for future orders in order to comply with the ordinance. This would be done in a two stage process. The potential ordinance would require no less than 12 mil plastic checkout bags for "franchised" stores beginning 01-01-2020. The "independent" stores would have to comply by 01/01/2021. The committee felt a 10 cent fee should go into effect for all businesses on 01/01/2020. The committee took a sense of the meeting requiring recyclable bags versus recycled bags containing at least 40% recycled material. The

committee was 5 in favor of recycled 40% and 4 recyclable. The committee discussed enforcement of the potential ordinance, fines, appeal process. Suggestions were made to change some of the wording of the draft ordinance and items within for other committees to review and provide input along with town counsel. The committee also discussed the State of Connecticut is also looking into to potential bag requirements which could potentially supersede local ordinances.

The meeting was filmed by channel 79.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by Terrence Duffy
Clerk for the meeting