

Economic Development Subcommittee

October 23, 2019

6:00 PM

MINUTES

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK

2019 DEC 11 A 10:42

RECEIVED

Members Present: Matthew Kelly, Glenn Jones, Melanie Hamblen

Members Absent: Eamon McCarthy Earls

Also in Attendance: Town Administrator Jamie Hellen

Councilor Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Plastic Bag Ban Proposal:

Mr. Hellen introduced the issue and referred to the memo originally distributed in 2016 for a plastic bag ban in Franklin. Mr. Hellen explained the absence of State Representative Jeff Roy, who was unable to attend due to legislative session. Representative Roy sent informational packets with updates on where the Plastic Bag Bill is at the state level, the packet also included a series of bill summaries. Mr. Hellen, in reference to the information sent by Representative Roy, notes how there are now 121 cities and towns across the commonwealth that have some form of a plastic bag ban in place.

Ethan Salvesen, Franklin High School student, gave a brief update on their efforts, over 275 signatures have been collected from people in favor of the plastic bag proposal in the Town of Franklin, and the proposal is supported by 90% of businesses in town.

Mr. Hellen and Mr. Salvesen explained that the resolution presented would apply primarily to check out bags like the ones given at retail and grocery stores and noted that the proposal would only apply to bags with a thickness of 4 mils or less, with some exemptions.

Councilor Hamblen referred to the page titled "*H.771 Original and Redraft Comparison [6/25 v.4]*" in the packet sent by Representative Roy, referencing the plastic bags that are exempt from the proposed redraft of the ban.

Mr. Hellen notes that if passed, the State plastic bag ban will trump any local legislation.

Councilor Hamblen mentions that in the redraft of the State bill there is no mandated fee (ex. 10 cents/bag), which is beneficial to small businesses that may find it necessary to charge more per bag.

Councilor Kelly stated that this issue will be put on the next Economic Development Subcommittee agenda as a final discussion where a vote would be made and the resolution would be brought in front of the Town Council.

Councilor Kelly motioned for the next meeting to be on December 4th, 2019 at 6:00 pm, all councilors voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 PM