

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday March 19, 2019
Special Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Chairman Kenny Mitchell, Vice Chairman James Hickey, Clerk Matthew Dyer Laura Fitzgerald-Kemmett, and Wesley Blauss

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Administrator Michael McCue

7:00 p.m. Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge Allegiance.

The Board was joined by Board of Health Chairman Arlene Dias.

Chairman Mitchell opened the meeting by stating the sole topic was a discussion on the proposed plastic bag ban and polystyrene ban.

Selectman Dyer noted that two versions of the two proposed bylaws were created, one with the Board of Selectmen as the enforcing agent and one with Board of Health. The Selectmen were promoting the version that they would enforce.

Selectman Dyer clarified his vision of the two bylaws and that he was in favor of a less aggressive approach. Mr. McCue offered to sit with Selectman Dyer to modify the bylaw with him.

Chairman Dias asked if the Board of Selectmen had the wherewithal to oversee the implementation of the bylaw. Selectman Dyer stated he would act as enforcement agent if need be. He also said he looks for the ban to be in effect by June 2020.

Selectman Fitzgerald-Kemmett stated her preference for the Board of Health to be the enforcement authority. Chairman Dias noted that the majority of towns assign the Board of Health as the authority.

Board of Health Member Gil Amato joins the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Dias noted an increase in paper bag use would result in high recycling costs to the Town. She believes as well that, while supporting the bylaw, that the May Town Meeting was too soon to propose it.

Selectman Dyer noted that he had spoken with a number of establishments in Town regarding the ban and meet with little opposition. The Boards discussed the potential cost to establishments.

Selectman Blauss noted the lack of a third member on the three member Board of Health and the challenges it has presented to that department.

Mr. McCue and Selectman Fitzgerald-Kemmett asked if the Board of Health would be willing to be the sponsors of the article and the enforcement agent if the bylaw was placed on the October Special Town Meeting instead. Selectmen Hickey echoed the question. The Board of Health agreed.

Chairman Mitchell noted that placing the article on the October meeting allows for further consideration of the particulars, to include timeframe of implementation.

Mrs. Marianne Dimascio of Green Hanson offered their assistance in any educational process regarding the bylaw.

Selectman Hickey asked that regular updates be provide to the Board to ensure that the bylaw does not fall by the wayside.

Selectman Dyer agreed to withdraw the articles from the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting and allow the Board of Health to sponsor them in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn (Hickey/Dyer) ***Voted 5 – 0***

8:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. McCue
Approved and Voted 5 – 0
March 26, 2019