

Clean City Commission Minutes

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:00pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Gloucester City Hall

In Attendance: Ainsley, Nick, Carter, Jamie, Sarah, Eric, Ken Hecht

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

2019 JAN 25 AM 11:03

Agenda Items:

- 1. Updates on plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances: long term plan for outreach – dates of next events, follow up on finding sources and purchasing bags, bag making event, Chamber of Commerce event**

Sarah will deliver bags to Housing department with outreach fliers, see if they need more  
City sent out reminder letter with ordinance text to all businesses

Carter – will update vendor list and get to Chamber of Commerce

Composted bags donated to Open Door don't fit on the bag holders, so not using bags right now  
– Jamie will ask if GHS students can make a new holder so these can be utilized

- 2. Updates on Sidewalk Buttlers: installing new units**

On hold installing units until spring

New locations will be Rocky Neck, Boat Launch, near Police Dept, Good Harbor Beach footbridge

- 3. Updates on projects with Gloucester DPW**

Ask when Mutt Mitts are purchased – can these be compostable bags next time?

What happened to recycling bin pilot project that was discussed last year?

Would city fund bumper sticker for recycling bins?

- a. "Drain SmART" program applications and planning for spring painting**

Seaside will take the lead, Eric will reach out to schools in January to set up appointments for spring. All 7 schools can participate, ideally between May-June, can have 3 week window each, 3 sets of materials.

- b. Change is Simple programming**

Setting up dates for spring, Ainsley will share, invite Mayor to attend

- 4. New Projects**

- a. Can we sponsor a compost bin with city/commission funds? Ainsley will ask
- b. Closed top recycling bins high priority/high need for the city. Constant source of litter in city, especially during windy/stormy weather. Once quoted at \$600,000 to purchase for

the entire city – is this figure accurate? Can the city use CPA funds for this? Ken H will look into this with DEP, who oversees additional grant funding (Sharon). Could bins be leased or financed? Sarah will look into how Salem uses their covered bins

#### **5. Updates from Cape Ann Maritime Partnership**

Nothing to report

#### **6. Upcoming Events**

CAMP meeting on 1/16

#### **7. Other topics as brought up by commissioners or members of the public in attendance**

- Annual report – all edit in Google Doc and Ainsley will share with city in January
- Ideas for Girl Scout troop looking for winter activity – go to restaurants with straws on demand signs, make posters for bring your own bag/cup
  
- Ken and Eric (on behalf of Seaside Sustainability) want to propose straw, plastic stirrer and splash stick ordinance. Need to consider conflict of interest and roles of Commission and Seaside to keep separate organizations clear. Ordinances are already in motion in Beverly and Rockport. This idea has verbal support from Deo Braga and Dunkin Corporate office; Dunkin is working on a straw made of PLA, a compostable material that could be made available.
- Ken wants to propose this ordinance to O+A in January, to start building credibility with council and taking small steps to “add a brick to the wall” in creating change in the community. Emphasized that he routinely picks up litter down town, and that the plastic bag and polystyrene sailed through and have paved the way for other legislation to follow. Ainsley argued that the ordinances did not in fact sail through smoothly, they took 2+ years of meetings and 3 public hearings to get passed, and that straws were originally included in the ordinance, and were removed in O+A meeting. Others agree that opinions have changed in the last few years, and straws now have momentum and support, and are the next hot topic to focus on. Ainsley said that straws should not be the highest priority for the city, when littering laws are not enforced, businesses have dumpsters overflowing, and residents have open top recycling bins – these are larger sources of litter, and changing to paper straws, while always good to use less plastic, will only change the makeup of our littered items. Also need to consider customers who need plastic straws to accommodate disabilities, may run into problems with ADA compliance, need to be careful removing straws all together. Ainsley suggested pushing ‘Straws on Demand’ as good compromise, Sarah and Jamie noted that CAMP already has signs distributed to several restaurants, but not seeing great compliance yet.
- Ken asked the Commission to write a letter supporting this ordinance, will send the text before next meeting so everyone can review and discuss again in January to decide on how to proceed. He also proposed taking the lead on the feasibility of open top recycling bins, so

Council can work on several environmental priorities at once. All agree to review proposal before moving forward.

