

Advisory Board Minutes 3/18/2019

| Name          | Office        | Present | Absent | Absent with notice |
|---------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------------------|
| David Clinton | Chair         | X       |        |                    |
| Jay Polito    | Vice<br>Chair | X       |        |                    |
| Jason Frady   | Clerk         | X       |        |                    |
| Bob Carney    |               | X       |        |                    |
| Dan Sullivan  |               | X       |        |                    |
| Marcia Bohinc |               | X       |        |                    |
| Jill Dennard  |               | X       |        |                    |
| Pat Cormier   |               | X       |        |                    |
| Peter Larsen  |               | X       |        |                    |
| Robyn Healey  |               | X       |        |                    |
| Steve Kiley   |               | x       |        |                    |

Dave Clinton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present are Town Manager Lemnios, Chief Russo, Mr. Randall Gould, Conservation Agent Chris Krahforst, Animal Control Officer Brian Willard

Town Manager has no update.

First discussion is Citizen's Petition currently listed as Article 26 regarding stationing an ambulance at the Village Fire Station from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mr Gould states it is 2.2 miles from the Village to Central Fire Station and 2.6 miles from Central Fire Station to Green Hill. He believes the Village Fire Station was closed at the onset of proposition 2 ½ when budgets became constrained. He believes since there are 2 schools in the village, the Village has the greatest number of people during the day of any section of town. He wondered how often do we receive mutual aid for ambulance calls. While it varies year to year, Cohasset answers 40 to 50 mutual aid calls and Hingham answers between 125 and 170 calls per year. Ambulance service brought in over \$695,000 in 2018, \$709,000 in 2017, but going back to 2012 it was around \$300,000. Chief Russo informed us that the Board of Selectmen set the ambulance rates each year. We have 3 tiers of service billed with the top level being billed at \$3323 per run. Although the Selectmen set rates, insurance companies pay at different negotiated rates. We cannot bill the difference to the resident. We average around 2800 ambulance calls per year. Chief Russo stated that our service operates a little quicker than state averages from the time a call is placed to the dispatch until a unit arrives on scene. If we were to staff the Village Fire Station it would require 8 additional staff members at a cost of \$1 million per year plus overtime of \$360,000. The Village Fire Station would need to be rehabilitated at a cost of \$100,000 to \$250,000 to accommodate the equipment needed. The Town would also have to purchase an additional ambulance.

Article 27 is a Citizen's Petition "To see if the town will accept and enact the recommendations of the 1991 Railroad Bed Right of Way Study Committee."

The study was completed in 1991. There are 351 properties that abut the railroad bed right of way. Mr. Gould wants the railroad bed to be kept open for public use. Users must be able to abandon within 30 days' notice. Members of the board state that it is unclear exactly which findings the town would be accepting because the report has both majority and minority opinions. In the Late '80s it was the policy to close the railroad bed from L street northward to accommodate parking for the homes since the road had washed out and was never repaved. The Board of Selectmen over time haven't chosen to address the railroad bed. The concept of adverse possession does not apply to publicly owned properties. Regardless of what abutters have done with the railroad bed, the Town still retains rights to the property.

#### Article 30 Reduction of Single Use Plastic Bags in Hull

\*The proponent of this article, Jason Frady, is a member and Clerk of the Advisory Board. He recuses himself from the board's deliberation and vote on this article and moves to the floor to present this article. Clerk duties have been passed to the chair for this discussion.

The ban includes plastic carry out bags.

Exempt: newspaper bags, dry cleaner bags, etc.

Jason presents findings of study for common bag use today.

Board of Health and Conservation Commission support this article.

Motion to Recommend Favorable Action: Jay Polito, Second Robyn Healey. Motion carries unanimously with Jason Frady Recusal.

#### Article 24 Conservation ByLaw

This article is a restatement and codification of State law into Town ByLaw.

Conservation Commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations after public notice and hearings.

Conservation Commission has not yet met on this article.

Some on the board are concerned that the wording of the geographical areas and formations listed in the article are inconsistent with the MA law the article seeks to adopt. The board has concerns about this wording and about the fact that the Conservation Commission has not met to discuss and recommend the article. Members of the board suggest that this article be resubmitted for 2020 Town Meeting

#### Article 10 Animal Control ByLaw

This article seeks to amend the number of days an impounded dog shall be kept impounded. The current law states a dog shall be kept for 10 days. State Law is that a dog shall be kept for 7 days.

#### Article 11 Animal Control ByLaw - fines

This article seeks to bring the schedule of fines for violation of the Animal Control ByLaw in compliance with recently amended State Law. The new schedule of fines will be 1<sup>st</sup> offense, \$50; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, \$100; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, \$300; 4<sup>th</sup> and subsequent offense, \$500.

The fee schedule was set in November 2018 by the state. We cannot have fees lower than the state but they can be higher. The ACO is recommending we set our fines in line with State Law.

#### Additional Items:

Marcia Bohinc requested a status of her request for town's current debt burden. Dave will ask the Town Manager to provide.

Marcia also indicated that the current format for the revolving funds is no longer in compliance with state law due to the Muni Modernization Act.

Motion to Adjourn by Jay Polito, Second by Bob Carney, motion carries unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 10:15.

#### Materials Provided

20190318-1 Hull Plastic Bag Fact Sheet

20190318-2 Hull Plastic Bag presentation

# Why Does Hull Need a Bag Bylaw?

- **There are too many bags.** Every year, Americans discard 100 billion single-use plastic bags.<sup>1</sup> Over **5 million plastic bags are estimated to be used annually in Hull alone.**<sup>2</sup>
- **Momentary convenience, permanent damage.** Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but **a single plastic bag has a life expectancy of up to 1,000 years.**<sup>3</sup>
- **We pay for “free” bags.** The plastic bag industry collects \$4 billion per year in profits from US retailers, who pass the costs on to customers.<sup>4</sup> **The cost of bags used by Hull residents is estimated to cost retailers \$200,000 per year.**<sup>5</sup>
- **Plastic bags waste taxpayer dollars.** Each month, Massachusetts produces between **100 and 125 tons of bag waste.** Plastic bags get caught in our single-stream recycling machinery, causing delay and damage, and contaminating materials that might be recovered.<sup>6</sup>
- **Plastic bags contribute to global warming.** Plastic bags are created from non-renewable resources. More than 1.6 billion gallons of oil are used each year for plastic bags alone. **Bags used in Hull produce 145 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.**<sup>7</sup>
- **Plastic bags are a major source of litter.** Even when disposed properly, bags end up in trees, gutters, roadsides, and waterways thanks to their lightweight and aerodynamic qualities.<sup>8</sup>
- **Plastics are destroying our oceans.** Approximately 8 million metric tons of plastic debris enters the world’s oceans each year. **By 2050, the oceans will contain more plastic than fish.**<sup>9</sup>
- **Plastic bags kill wildlife.** Bags are often mistaken as food by both domestic and wild animals and prove fatal when ingested. As microscopic particles, plastic displaces plankton in the marine food chain. A recent study found that **25% of fish sold in supermarkets contain plastic debris.**<sup>10</sup>

**91 cities and towns in Massachusetts have passed bag bans.  
Now it’s Hull’s turn.**

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<sup>1</sup> Earth Policy Institute and Worldwatch Institute, *State of the World 2004*.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a population of 10,293 (2018) and an annual use rate of 531 bags/person. Other estimates are as high as 1,093 bags per person per year. For a discussion of usage rates, see Parsons Brinckerhoff Consulting, *Final Environmental Impact Report, Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance, City of Los Angeles*. State Clearinghouse No. 201209053 (May 2013), p. 166.

<sup>3</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/07/13/eco.plasticbagwaste/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Telis Demos, Bag Revolution, *Fortune*, May 12, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Cost based on annual number of bags, with an average cost of 4 cents/bag (which range in cost from 1.5 cents for very thin convenience bags to 10 cents and up for thick boutique bags).

<sup>6</sup> Testimony of Austin McKnight, Casella Recycling, to Boston City Council, November 2016.

<sup>7</sup> <https://fooddemocracy.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/plastic-bags-and-oil-consumption/>. Local figure based on a calculation of 0.04 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per 1500 bags. See Parsons Brinckerhoff, *op cit.*, pp. 44-45. For an extended discussion see the report prepared for the Progressive Bag Alliance, a consortium of plastic bag manufacturers, by Boustead Consulting and Associates Ltd., *Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags – Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper* (2007).

<sup>8</sup> Brendle Group, *Triple Bottom Line Evaluation: Plastic Bag Policy Options*, City of Fort Collins, Oct 2012, 9.

<sup>9</sup> World Economic Forum, *The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics*, Jan 2016

<sup>10</sup> C. M. Rochman, et al, Anthropogenic debris in seafood: Plastic debris and fibers from textiles in fish and bivalves sold for human consumption, *Sci Rep* 5, 14340 (2015).



## Common Questions

### *Isn't plastic better for the environment than paper?*

No. This claim comes from a misunderstanding of life cycle analyses that do not account for the larger effects of plastic on environmental ecosystems. Plus, once people stop using plastic bags, they do not switch to paper. Instead, **people quickly grow accustomed to reusable bags**.<sup>11</sup>

### *Can't plastic bags be recycled?*

In theory. But because manufacturing plastic bags is so cheap, recycling them is not cost-effective. Recycling one ton of plastic bags costs \$4,000; the recycled product can be sold for \$32. As a result, **less than 1-5 percent of plastic bags are recycled** each year.<sup>12</sup>

### *Aren't some plastic bags compostable or biodegradable?*

Alternative "compostable" or "biodegradable" plastic bags require very specific and controlled environments in order to break down.

### *Don't reusable bags spread disease?*

No. This claim comes from a ridiculous story about a norovirus outbreak among a girls' soccer team that had nothing to do with reusable bags. The story, spread by industry lobbyists, has been thoroughly debunked. **Washing reusable bags will kill any germs**.<sup>13</sup>

### *Won't bag laws hurt local businesses?*

No. It is true that paper bags are more expensive than plastic. But multiple studies have shown that once a bag law is in place, **consumers become more conscientious and bring reusables, saving businesses money**. It was only in the 1980s that plastic checkout bags became so common.

### *Are bag laws really effective?*

Yes, they're super effective. Without a fee, laws typically reduce bag waste by 60 to 80%. With a modest fee, **bag laws reduce both plastic and paper by more than 90 percent**.<sup>14</sup>

### *What will I use to pick up after my dog?*

There are **plenty of alternatives for dog waste**, from newspaper, produce, and bread bags to low-cost biodegradable bags such as those from poopbags.com.

## PLEASE SUPPORT A HULL BAG BYLAW!

<sup>11</sup> For a discussion of life cycle analyses, see <http://www.massgreen.org/plastic-is-not-greener-than-paper.html>.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cleanair.org/Waste/wasteFacts.html>

<sup>13</sup> See <https://myplasticfreelife.com/2012/05/dont-be-fooled-by-reusable-bag-norovirus-scare/>

<sup>14</sup> See the reports compiled at <http://www.massgreen.org/plastic-bag-impact.html>.

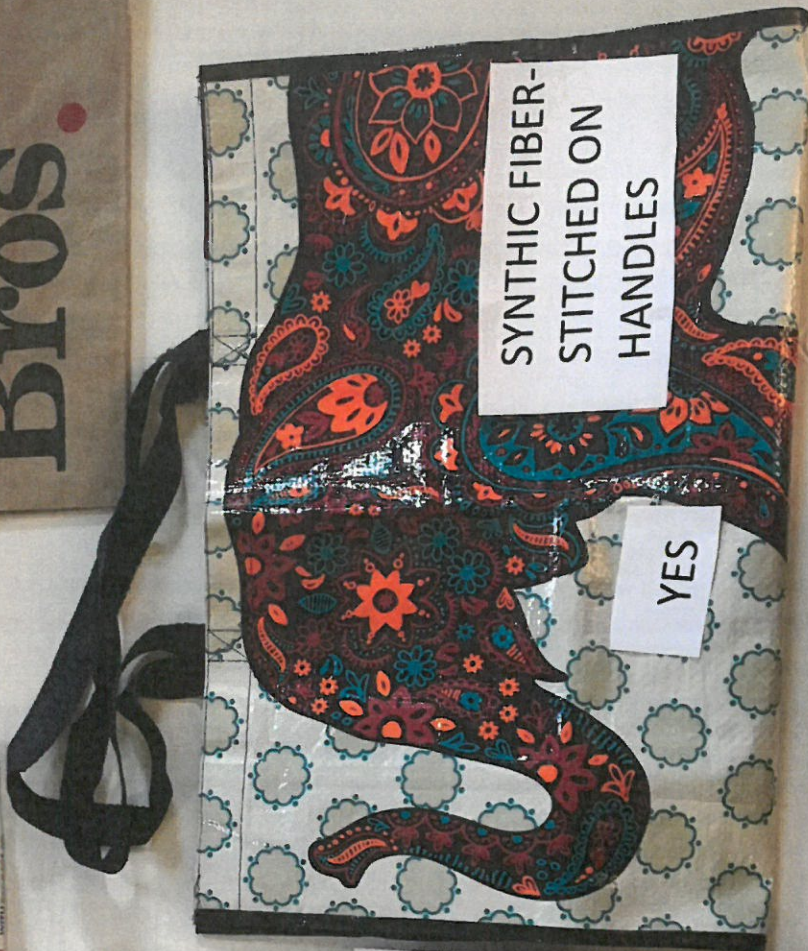




|                |                |            |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| PRODUCES       | USES           | COMPLETELY |
| 34% LESS       | 15% LESS       | DEGRADES   |
| GREENHOUSE GAS | ENERGY IN MFG. |            |



YES



YES





**Bags that would still be allowed**

# Bags Harm Terrestrial Wildlife and Pets





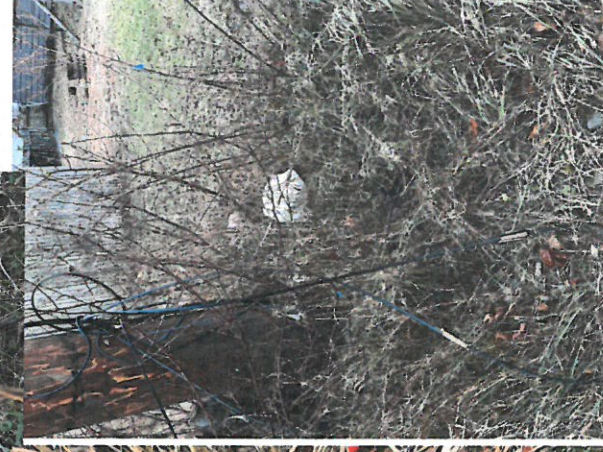
# Bags harm birds and aquatic wildlife





# Plastic Bags Found in Hull 2018

Photos taken by Hull Middle School Green Team Members





This is the sorter after an 8-hour shift  
Being cleaned by hand, with utility knives

















# Plastic Bag Bans Passed in MA

## 93 Cities and Towns have passed plastic bag bans including Scituate, Cohasset, Marshfield, Duxbury, Pembroke and Boston



## Hull

### Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw Supporters

Weir River Watershed Association

North & South Rivers Watershed Assn

Massachusetts Audubon

New England Wildlife Center

Jeff Corwin (Ocean Treks and Animal Planet)

Sierra Club

Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA.

Trustees of Reservations

Standish Humane Society (Southeastern MA.)

Sustainable South Shore

South Shore Natural Science Center

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary