

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee (WSWQC)  
FILED BY: Jack Carr, WSWQC Committee Member  
DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday January 10, 2017  
TIME OF MEETING: 7:30 PM (scheduled)  
PLACE OF MEETING: Wayland Town Building  
ATTENDING: Toni Moores (chair), Tom Largy, Lisa Newton, Jack Carr (mike Lowery absent due to conflict with DPW meeting.)

NOTE: All votes conducted by roll call of individual members.

### **WSWQC MINUTES 2017/01/10**

The meeting came to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes - approved
2. Public Comments – Town of Wayland residents Paul Dale and Janot Mendler from Transition Wayland attended meeting to discuss item 7 below.
3. Dudley Pond – Mike Lowery – Mike was absent
4. Heard Pond – Tom Largy – Solitude is overdue on two reports. Tom has a draft but intends to request a modification whereby Solitude acknowledges that overall results could have been improved had it begun harvesting plants when they first appeared rather than waiting until late summer. Tom also mentioned that 2016 was a banner year for chestnut as conditions (low water, high temps) exacerbated difficulties with the efforts to harvest. By early august the plants had matured with seeds and there was not enough time to get all the plants harvested before the seeds were dropped. Tom also will push Solitude to separate the aquatic survey study from the 2016 year end status report.
5. Lake Cochituate – Jack Carr – Nothing to report. Jack Will attend the MA Dept. of Transportation design public hearing regarding Cochituate Rail trail on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This construction will impact Middle and North ponds of Lake Cochituate in that the trail passes over DCR property including the keyhole bridge. Later in 2017 DOT will file NOI with Town of Natick ConCom.
6. Mill Pond – Tom Largy – nothing to report. Tom will present a white paper at next meeting re: future management of the pond.
7. Committee member's reports and concerns  
Tom Largy motioned for committee to approve his attendance at the NEAPMS meeting in NH tomorrow Jan 11th. Approved. Voted 4 support; 0 against

Lisa Newton, member – requests the endorsement of WSWQC in support of two proposed bylaws being presented to TM.

1. Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw
2. Takeout Food Container Bylaw

Presenting to the WSWQC this evening were supporters Paul Dale and Janot Mendler. Presentation materials were shared with WSWQC and are available electronically upon request. Paul Dale participated on the Wellesley committee that successfully banned plastic bags. Janot Mendler has spent career in water resource management. She is focused on climate change impact on low income countries. Also focuses on disaster risk reduction. She believes our water resources are at great risk and considering all the challenges we face as a society, water quality is low hanging fruit with lots of opportunity to positively impact.

**Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw.** Goal[E1]: eliminate use of single use plastic checkout bags in Wayland. The production and use of thin-film single-use plastic checkout bags have significant impacts on the environment, including, but not limited to: contributing to the potential death of aquatic and land animals through ingestion and entanglement; contributing to pollution of the land environment; creating a burden to solid waste collection and recycling facilities; clogging storm drainage systems; and requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil nationally for their manufacture. The purpose of this bylaw is to protect the Town's unique natural beauty and natural resources by eliminating single-use plastic check-out bags that are distributed in the Town of Wayland and to promote the use of reusable bags.

Promote the use of reusable shopping bags. Preserves the ability to use plastic bags for dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise. In Wayland, the proposal is to ban bags of 4 mil (4/1000 inch) or less. Over this thickness they are reusable. The goal is not to prohibit plastic bags but instead incentivize BYOB. The common bag at CVS or similar would be no longer available. Potential alternative to this bylaw is to recycle these bags. Paul indicates that there is no viable recycling stream at this time. These bags are not recyclable. Casella[E2] picks up the bags, but claims that recycling is not a profitable process for the town and what Casella does with them is not clear. Alternative is paper bags. Based on national averages Wayland uses at least 4 million bags per year[E3] (300 per person per year). The big box stores are ready to switch because the trend is continuing. Concord already has banned plastic bags and Framingham has adopted this ban starting 1 Jan 2018. Goal is for Wayland also to adopt 1 Jan 2018. When communities began this initiative it was a novelty but now that many towns (42 in MA) have adopted this ban, big box stores have a supply chain and can readily address the bylaw. The argument in favor of the merchant is that if majority of customers come in with or purchase reusable bags, this bylaw is financially sustainable. One merchant indicated that he is supportive so long as it is uniform so that every point of sale in Wayland must comply.

Toni Moores, Chair, asked if Wayland and surrounding towns adopt bylaw what numerical data would support this. [E4]Toni Moores asks what the alternative to plastic and reusable is. Paul Dale indicated it would be paper.

Janot Mendler indicated that Korea is one of the few places that recycles single use plastic bags and that the 'recycling process is very crude'.

Tom Largy indicated that bacteria is an issue with reusable bags. Tom also mentioned that North America's contribution to the total accumulated plastic waste in the world is minimal and that most of the plastic waste comes from third world countries with little or no waste management

Paul Dale's objective is to gain endorsement. Paul concluded presentation by asking committee "why are we taking fossil fuels from the ground that have taken millions of years to develop, convert this into a product we use for a 30 minute drive from food store only to discard into a landfill where they remain for another million years to decompose."

VOTE: Lisa Newton makes motion to endorse the proposal to eliminate use of single-use plastic shopping bags. Vote: 3 in favor (Moores, Newton, Carr) 1 against (Largy)

**Polystyrene Food Container Bylaw.** Goal:[E5] Eliminate use of polystyrene food and beverage container containers in Wayland. Polystyrene contains dangerous substances which when heated release toxic chemicals that may be carcinogenic. Eliminating polystyrene food and beverage containers is in the best interest of the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Wayland. Expanded polystyrene food containers form a significant portion of the solid waste going into our landfills. Polystyrene is not biodegradable; once buried in a landfill it will remain there for centuries.

VOTE: Lisa Newton makes motion to endorse the proposal to eliminate use of polystyrene food containers. 4 in favor (Moores, Newton, Carr, Largy)

8. Septic System O&M Mailing date – Mike absent – to be continued

9. Next meeting date – Tuesday February 28, 2017

10. Invoice Approval. Two invoices were approved. \$1440.00 Solitude, \$1539 Nashoba analytic

11. Adjournment – A motion for adjournment approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

-

*Revised Meeting Notice/June 23,  
2010*