

Ordinance Committee Minutes

January 30, 2020

Present: Councilor Cahan, Councilor Asherman, and Councilor Hemphill
Staff: Nathan Poore and Marguerite Fleming
Other: Donna Cheney, REAC

Councilor Cahan began the meeting at 8:00 am.

1. Approve previous meeting minutes.

Councilor Asherman motioned to approve the minutes; Councilor Hemphill seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Review of Draft Ordinance to Prohibit the Sale of Plastic Straws

Ms. Cheney said that the draft ordinance is like Portland's ordinance with three exceptions: 1) does not exempt use in the schools because Falmouth Schools already has a ban, 2) does not exempt bulk sales, 3) the ordinance would be effective immediately January 1, 2021; no phase in.

Ms. Cheney said that she has spoken with Cathy Breen and the Legislature is not currently working on a plastic straw ban. She said that the largest concern in speaking with Falmouth businesses was the cost burden on the convenience stores.

The Committee discussed accommodating persons with disabilities.

The Committee noted that single use is not included in the plastic straw, stirrer, and splash stick definitions. It was also noted that the draft ordinance did not distinguish between single use plastic straws and reusable plastic straws. The Committee discussed including, "a straw that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use" in the definitions section. They also discussed adding "exemption of reusable plastic straws that contain durable plastic" to the exemptions section.

The Committee discussed re-structuring the purpose section and re-formatting the definitions section.

The Committee expressed general support of the ordinance.

Next steps: Ms. Fleming and Mr. Poore will meet with Ms. Darling to fill her in. Ms. Darling will revise the draft in consultation with the Town attorney. The Committee will review the revised draft at the next Ordinance Committee meeting.

3. Short-term Rental Update.

The short-term rental public forum will be held on February 6 at 7pm at Town Hall in the Council Chambers. Ms. Fleming reviewed the tentative agenda.

4. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13 at 11 am. The agenda will include a review of the revised draft of the plastic straw ordinance. The March meeting will be held on Thursday March 19 at 8 am.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Minutes prepared by Marguerite Fleming.