

City of Salem, Massachusetts



"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

The City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with the Committee of the Whole
met in the Council Chamber on Tuesday June 9, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

May 28, 2020 at 12:13 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: _____

SUBJECT(S)

#148 – Plastics, Straws, Styrofoam, cigarette butts, nip bottles etc

#149 - Gas Ordinance relative to gas ban

Chairman Dibble opened the meeting and stated that due to the 2 hour zoom meeting limits we would start with the plastics issue for 30-45 minutes, then advance to the gas issue. Dibble gave first introductions and stated goal is to hear from everyone, to see where we are at, and determine where do we go from here. At a 2nd meeting on just plastics we will get into details of each type of plastic. Dibble commented that several Councilors commented in support when this proposed ban was introduced to the Council. Dibble asked Councilor Prosniewski to give details of what he has seen on the Salem Harbor floor and C. Prosniewski described the large amount of Plastic Pollution he has seen from his years as part of the Salem Police dive team. C. Hapworth introduced a letter from Judith Riley on straws/disabilities and said he was in favor of ban on nips. C. Riccati commented this was a good issue to tackle, Ms. Riley's letter on straws, and (over)

June 9, 20PMSE

that nip bottle possible state deposit is before House. P2

C. Morsillo wants ban on nip bottles as state might not act, and that carry-out plastics may hurt restaurants. Chair Dibble introduced and asked Barbara Warren of Salem Sound Coastwatch to provide an update and detailed reason and why there is a need for this ban.

Barbara Warren provided a detailed reasoning in support, encouraged all to watch "Big It" movie, and added the following: In every minute of every day, one truck load of plastics enters the ocean. Plastics are found in both plankton & seafood, and in she cited other plastic problems. B.W. listed most commonly found items in ocean and that all of the top 10 items were all made of plastics.

B. Warren spoke of communities banning plastics or resolution.

She continued about other plastics & styrofoam cups and that City of Gloucester passed a plastics ban but has not yet gone into effect yet, Gloucester has no issue on straws as found solutions.

C. Morsillo asked B. Warren about Coast Smart Restaurants.

C. Dibble asked B. Warren about % of restaurants. B.W. stated all but 1 supported it & very few negative comments.

C. M. Riccardi commented on straws and black plastics and asked about schools banning plastics

Jeff Cohen prefers ban with exceptions as a resolution is only a wish, disagrees on styrofoam - NO, longer recyclable, restaurants could work together buy in bulk

Jenna Ide spoke about schools not using styrofoam trays, and ~~restaurants should ask customers if they want~~ customers should ask for straws in restaurants instead of being offered straws.

John Hayes, SERC chair - supports this effort that needs to be an integrated approach, Schools & restaurants, etc all across city treated the SAME. Discussed micro plastics.

Shelly Stier - discussed this during COVID in restaurants

Pat G, SAFE - stated we need to restrain ourselves

June 9 PASE Continued

P. 4

Woman Voters and Mothers Outfront have helped in those towns. Dibble was happy to see Salem League of W.V. has joined vs. Dibble introduced Pat Grumba of SAFE. Pat gave reasons & impacts of leaking gas & impacts, and that Salem is now part of regional Gas Allies, and National Grid is starting to work with us. Pat G. thanked C. Dibble & Stan Franzeen for attending regular Gas Leak Allies meetings in Arlington, and further explained leak problem, new infrastructure, but also reason for ban is NOT having 50 years to act. Pat G. spoke about Brookline Ordinance ban is in State Atty General hands waiting on ruling. Some concerns about Union with Gas Ban and this wording was inflammatory and plan for gas was better. We need to eliminate greenhouse gas Let Brookline & others go first to handle court/lawyer costs. Waiting to see if Brookline winds up being sued by Nat. Grid.

Pat G. continued where Rocky Mountain Institute invited Salem to join a Building Electrification Accelerator (B.E.A.) for engineers & legal advise, etc. SAFE is onboard w/ RMI & Pat G. has discussed w/ Mayor. Pat G. discussed reason for wording & need for B.E.A.'s 8 month study. She noted this is free advise from RMI.

C. Prosniewski stated need for some sort of boating & beaching education for cleaning up after ourselves but no one cleans the bottom of the ocean.

Steve Karentais stated he has an engineering degree in plastics, and worked in plastics for 20 years. The cost of recycling plastic is more than buying virgin.

Shelly Styer stated we should not delay this due to COVID.

C. Dominguez commented if we encourage restaurants and companies to change other companies are already working on solutions such as non plastic straws, etc.

C. Hazworth commented and inquired of other community bins? Such as leftovers from restaurants.

John Hayes commented he is willing to pay more for non-plastic containers from restaurants.

C. Marsillo stated she is not in favor of styrofoam and wants to help restaurants.

Doug Bowker discussed left-overs and portion size too large, possible SSU study to show how much food is wasted.

Barbara Warren will try to score out discussion and prepare draft ordinance.

Motion to leave in committee by C. Riccardi, 2nd by C. Prosniewski, 5-0 vote.

Matter #149 Chair Dibble gave overview, spoke of meetings in other communities and hearing of how their League of

June 9, 2020 PHSE

P5

Chair Dibble stated he spoke with Mayor and that Mayor supported effort with RMI but maybe would not supply needed staff.

Jeff Cohen called Salem 2nd most endangered City on North Shore after Revere, and talked about Sustainability and getting off fossil fuel.

John Hayes - Not calling it a gas ban but plan for gas infrastructure has technical matters for ordinance

Jenna Ide - Huge work load but with help from volunteers could happen & agrees to reduce gas & getting buildings efficient.

Doug Bowker discussed looking at this from many ways & likes huge RMI opportunity.

Pst G from SAFE thanked Doug, John, Dibble, Esmeralda, & others who worked on this with Rocky Mountain Institute.

Stan Franzen thanked Pst G for carrying the load.

C. Riccardi encouraged all to attend SERC meetings

C. Dibble discussed resolution to direct boards & city staff to suggest to developers to not tie into gas system.

C. Morsillo spoke about waiting for RMI

June 9, 2020 PHSE

P 6

Jane Rumm 11, S Holly St spoke in favor of moving away from gas and fossil fuels. She also commented on Climate Change & fossil fuels on economic disadvantaged people.

Chair Dibble commented on Salem's low income neighborhood gas leaks not being repaired.

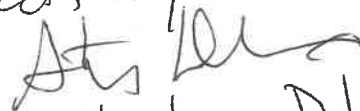
P2TG commented RMX June 25 first meeting talked about affected poorer hispanic neighborhoods & gas impacts, spoke on power plant, and that the best being offshore wind. She described the existence of a converter house commitment at the Salem power plant able to receive power from offshore wind turbines.

John Hayes commented on News article about Attn General Healy's action to have DPU policy on net zero emission by 2050.

C. ~~Marsillo~~ Marsillo moved to keep matter in Committee 2nd by C. Prosniewski, Voted 5-0

8:20 pm Motion by C. Hapworth, 2nd by C. Prosniewski to adjourn. Voted 5-0.

Respectfully submitted



Stephen Dibble, Chair