

Article Six - Amendments to Chapter 172 of General Bylaws (Plastic Bags and Polystyrene Containers)

Main Motion Speaker: Lori LaFrance

To see if the Town will amend Chapter 172 of the General By-laws of the Town of Ipswich as follows:

(Note: ~~strikethrough~~ indicates deletions; ***bold italics*** indicates additions.)

SECTION 1: PLASTIC BAG RESTRICTION

1. By amending § 172-2 (Definitions) as follows:

~~1. “Thin film single use bags” shall mean bags with integral handles and a thickness of 3.0 mils or fewer that are intended to transport products purchased in a retail establishment.~~ ***“Plastic Checkout Bag”, shall mean any checkout bag made of plastic that does not meet the definition of “Reusable Checkout Bag”, typically with plastic handles, and intended for transport of purchased products.***

~~2. “Biodegradable bag” shall mean a bag that:~~

~~a. Contains no polymers derived from fossil fuels; and~~

~~b. Is intended for single use and will decompose in a natural setting at a rate comparable to other biodegradable~~

~~materials such as paper, leaves, and food waste.~~

32. “Reusable bag” **shall mean a sewn bag with stitched handles** that is specifically designed for multiple uses and is made of ~~thick plastic, cloth, fabric or other durable materials~~ **either polyester, polypropylene, cotton or other natural fiber material.**

43. “Retail establishments”...or personal items.”; and

2. By amending § 172-3 (Use Regulations) as follows:

- A. ~~Thin film single use~~ **Plastic checkout bags** shall not be distributed or sold from any retail establishment within the Town of Ipswich.
- B. Customers are encouraged to take their own reusable ~~or biodegradable shopping~~ bags to stores. Retail establishments may provide reusable or ~~biodegradable, thick plastic, paper, fabric, or other types of~~ bags at no charge, or impose a fee for paper ~~or other bags~~, as they so desire. Retail establishments are strongly encouraged to make reusable bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price.
- C. ~~Thin p~~Plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items or similar merchandise, typically without handles, are exempt from the provisions of this Section.

Requested By: Select Board
Select Board Recommend: 5-0
Finance Committee Recommend: 3-3-3 Split

Summary: These proposed amendments to the 2016 bylaw will expand the definition of plastic bag, remove the definition of biodegradable bag, and redefine reusable bag so as to eliminate any confusion for businesses. This article has no fiscal impact. The article requires a simple majority vote.

MOTION:

I move to amend Chapter 172 of the Ipswich General Bylaws as set forth in Article Six as set forth in the warrant of this town meeting.
