

GRAFTON BAG BYLAW
TOWN MEETING MAY 8, 2017

ARTICLE 37. CITIZENS PETITION – PLASTIC BAG BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adopting a bylaw entitled “Plastic Bag Reduction” as follows:

Section 1. – Definitions

SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG

A single-use carryout bag is made of plastic, paper or other material that is provided to a customer by an establishment and is used to transport merchandise from the establishment. Single-use carryout bags do not include recycled paper bags or a re-usable grocery bag. Single-use carryout bags do not include bags typically without handles used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, small bags to contain fish, meats, produce and other products selected by the consumer to deliver items to the point of sale or checkout area of the store.

REUSABLE CARRYOUT BAG:

- 1) Is made solely of or in a combination of natural cloths, synthetic fibers, other washable material or of non-toxic plastic.
- 2) Is specifically designed for multiple reuse and has handles.

RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG

A paper bag that is 100% recyclable and contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content.

ESTABLISHMENT

An establishment means any business selling goods, articles, or personal services to the public, including restaurants with a gross interior space of 3000 square feet or larger; or business having at least 2 locations under the same ownership or brand name within the Town of Grafton.

Section 2. PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

Thin-film single use plastic carryout bags shall not be distributed, used, or sold for checkout at Retail Establishments within the Town of Grafton. Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are to make reusable checkout bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price. Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible. Retail establishments may use Recyclable Paper Bags, with or without handles, at the point of sale.

SECTION 3. ENFORCEMENT

This Bylaw may be enforced by the Board of Health or by the Town Administrator.

All the requirements set forth in this bylaw shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Submitted by: Ellen Goguen