

**198251 : Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance****Meeting** 9/3/2015 6:00 PM**Vote Results****September 3, 2015 6:00 PM**  spacerKept in Committee

Mr. Buckley discussed similar ordinances from other communities and noted that Great Barrington grants exemptions for farm stands using plastic bags. The ordinance used in Brookline is the most comparable to Somerville's proposal. The committee discussed amendments, fines, offenses, potential waivers and bag thickness although Somerville's proposed ordinance doesn't differentiate based on the thickness of bags. Chairman Rossetti requested that the proposed ordinance be distributed to all members of the Board of Aldermen.

Chairman Rossetti requested that a communication be sent to Representative Provost inquiring as to where her sponsored plastic bag reduction bill, H739, came up with the requirement that recycled bags contain a minimum of 80% recycled material, noting that Mr. Sellers-Garcia represented that 30-50% is most common in districts as well as being less costly.

Mr. Smiljic asked to know which businesses would be impacted by the proposed ordinance, (for enforcement purposes), and suggested that businesses be informed of the change during the license renewal process. Alderman Niedergang favored notifying businesses ASAP and the Chamber of Commerce prefers at least 90 days notice.

A public hearing will be scheduled on the matter.

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