TOWN OF MILLIS

900 MAIN STREET
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS 02054

Office of Town Clerk

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MOTION AND VOTE
FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding **Article XXIV PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION BYLAW.**

The Purpose of this Bylaw is to eliminate the usage of thin-film single-use plastic bags by all retail stores in the Town of Millis and to promote the use of reusable bags.

The Town is committed to protecting the environment and the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens. This Bylaw will help reduce the common use of plastic checkout bags and encourage the use of reusable bags by consumers, thereby reducing local land and aquatic pollution, which add to the potential death of marine and other wildlife through ingestion and entanglement; clogging of storm drainage systems; impeding of solid waste reduction; increased litter around Millis streets, parks, public places and local waterways.

Definitions

1. Check out bag - Any bag that is provided at the point of sale to a customer by an establishment for use to transport or carry away purchased items, including but not limited to merchandise, goods and/or food.

2. Enforcing Authority - Millis Board of Health

3. Recyclable Paper Bag - A paper bag that is:

a. 100 percent recyclable, including any handles

b. contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content; and

c. displays the words "recyclable" (or a suitable symbol indicating that the bag is recyclable) and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled content" (or other applicable amount) in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.

4. Retail Establishment - Any retail operation located in the Town which sells goods, food or provides personal services to the public, including restaurants.

5.   Reusable checkout bag - A bag with or without handles specifically designed for multiple reuse; and is either made of cloth or machine washable fabric or made of durable, non-toxic plastic generally considered a food-grade material. A Reusable checkout bag may not be constructed of polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride.

6.   Thin-film single use plastic bag - typically with plastic handles and a thickness of 2.5 mils or less and are intended for single-use transport of purchased products.

Use Regulation

Single use plastic bags shall not be distributed, used or sold for checkout or other purposes at any Retail Establishment within the Town of Millis on or after July 1, 2020.

If a Retail Establishment provides or sells checkout bags to customers, the bags must be one of the following:

1.   Recyclable paper bags, or

2.   Reusable checkout bags

Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable or biodegradable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are strongly encouraged to make Reusable checkout bags available either at no cost or for sale to customers at a reasonable price.

Thin-film, single-use plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, may be distributed, used or sold at any retail or grocery store.

Effective Date: This Bylaw shall take effect six (6) months following approval of the Bylaw by the Attorney General or July 1, 2020, whichever is later.

Enforcement Process

This Bylaw will be enforced by the Board of Health through non-criminal disposition.

Any retailer distributing plastic checkout bags in violation of the Bylaw shall be subject to a non-criminal disposition fine as defined below. Any such fines shall be paid to the Town of Millis.

Violation of the Bylaw

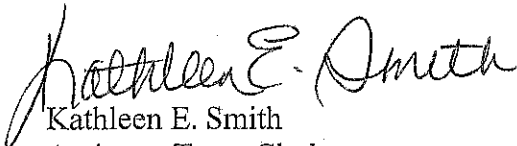|	
1st offense	Warning
2nd offense	$50
3rd	$100

and subsequent offenses

or act in any manner relating thereto.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE WITH A FEW IN OPPOSITION (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED) that the Town amend the Town of Millis General By-Laws, by adding **XXIV PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION BYLAW.**

This 22nd Day of November, 2019
A True Copy Attest:

Kathleen E. Smith
Assistant Town Clerk