



MEDFIELD PLASTIC REDUCTION INITIATIVE

Supported by the Medfield Transfer Station and Recycling Committee

WINTER 2019 UPDATE FOR MERCHANTS & BUSINESSES



Committee members are stopping by all business establishments this month to update you on our process and progress toward the elimination of plastic bags at check-out in Medfield.

Since June 2018 when we first floated this idea, we have received overwhelming support from Medfield residents for a Plastic Bag Reduction bylaw. We had a booth at Medfield Day, held a movie night where we showed the documentary “Bag-It”, presented at two Selectmen meetings, attended a MEMO executive committee meeting and held two public forums. *Based on this feedback, we are bringing a bylaw before town residents at the April Town Meeting to ban all plastic bags from point of sale.* If this passes, the effective date will be approximately Nov. 1, 2019.

This bylaw does not ban dry cleaner bags, newspaper bags or produce bags within a grocery store. It does cover plastic bags provided at the end of a transaction, and does include take out bags in restaurants.

Our actions for the winter include:

- ◆ Hosting a public forum to discuss the bylaw, along with a presentation of tips to help businesses and consumers switch to reusable bags. Keep your eye on the local media for date and time. We would appreciate your feedback and your questions.
- ◆ Presenting at a MEMO meeting for businesses to discuss the bylaw—TBA.
- ◆ Note: If you provide us with your email address, we will keep you Informed of all events up to and beyond Town Meeting.

We Welcome Your Support!

Many Medfield businesses support the by-law, including Brothers, Shaw’s, CVS, Cutlets, BeCharmed, Butterfly Tree, Capsule and Park St. Books. Can we count on you to join them? Please consider adding your company’s name to our list of supporters at our website: <http://medfieldplasticreduction.org/>

You can also show your support of the initiative in the following ways:

- ◆ Encourage your customers to use **reusable bags and containers** (success here means lower costs for you and less storage space taken up with bags).
- ◆ At check out, ask customers if they need a bag. Rather than automatically giving bags out, this easy step will remind customers to bring their own bags, and ultimately save you money.
- ◆ Transition to compliant bags ahead of the by-law adoption. *We will post the full proposed bylaw on our website. We are developing a list of reusable bag vendors which we will also post.*

Looking Ahead:

We wanted to reach out to you now so that this change is as trouble-free for you as possible. Here are tips we have learned from other towns that have already implemented this change. At last count, 89 towns and cities in MA have adopted similar by-laws.

- ◆ If you already sell or provide reusable bags, ensure they comply with the bag bylaw. If you don’t sell them, consider doing so (again, make sure they’re compliant). *We are developing a list of reusable bag vendors which we will post on our website.*
- ◆ Manage your inventory of non-compliant bags so that you have none left when the bylaw goes into effect (this will save you money and you can switch over early if need be). Anticipated date of Bylaw enactment is Nov.1, 2019.

Please reach out via email to our co-chairs if you have any questions. Or, plan to join us at one of our community events where the bylaw will be discussed. Watch the Patch and local newspapers for more details. If you would like to get emails directly, please send an email to Andy Costello at acostello84@comcast.net and we will put you on our merchant email list.

Andy Costello
Medfield Plastic Reduction Initiative
508-359-7815
acostello84@comcast.net
<http://medfieldplasticreduction.org/>