

**RULES AND ORDINANCES COMMITTEE
BRANFORD RTM
Tuesday, December 18, 2018@ 7:00 PM**

MEETING AGENDA

The Rules & Ordinances Committee of the Branford Representative Town Meeting will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford, CT at 7:00 PM

TOWN OF BRANFORD OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

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1. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance enabling tax exemptions for handicap equipped vehicles.
2. To review and, if appropriate, revise the Town Dock Ordinance re: time limits and rights of appeal.
3. To review and, if appropriate, propose changes to the Town of Branford Noise Ordinance.
4. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance restricting the use of plastic bags for retail checkout.
5. To consider and, if appropriate, draft and approve an ordinance banning the purchase, sale, and distribution of plastic helium balloons in Branford.
6. R&O's next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2019.
7. Adjournment.

Dated this 14th of December, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

John F. Leonard
Chair, R&O Committee

**Rules & Ordinances Committee
2019 Regular Meeting Schedule**
December 14, 2018

The Regular Meetings of the Rules & Ordinances Committee of the Branford Representative Town Meeting in 2019 will be at the Canoe Brook Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford CT 06405, on the Third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates

January 15

February 19

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17

Additional or Special Meetings may be added as needed.

Sincerely,

John F. Leonard
Chairman, R&O Committee
Branford RTM

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

42 Turtle Bay Drive
Branford, CT 06405-4973
November 28, 2018

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Branford Representative Town Meeting
Dennis Flanigan, Moderator
Jessica Everlith, Clerk
c/o Branford Town Hall
Branford, CT 06405

Copy to: Mrs. Jessica Everlith, RTM Clerk
14 Mill Plain Rd, Unit B
Branford, CT 06405

Re: Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

Dear Moderator,

I am writing to you on behalf of BYO Branford, a group of Branford concerned citizens, who are proposing that an ordinance be adopted by the Branford Representative Town Meeting (RTM), with the purpose to protect and improve the environment of Branford including its coastline and marine life, and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents by reducing the use of plastic and paper bags and encouraging the use of reusable checkout bags when making retail purchases.

Our BYO Branford group has collected over 830 signatures of Branford residents over 18 years old! We also have shown an informative, interesting movie called "Bag It" on four occasions and will continue to show it to various groups within our town.

We have talked to Branford merchants on Main St., West Main St., North Main St., Leetes Island Rd., and Brushy Hill Plaza. Twenty merchants have publically supported our effort, and an additional 13 agreed to put up our poster reminding shoppers to use their own reusable bags for checkout!

In addition, we have designed a large cloth washable shopping bag with our logo on one side and that of Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound on the other side. To date we have given out 300 of these bags to residents excited about using them when shopping. And, we will continue to order more to distribute. Plus, coming up soon, our committee will be collecting extra cloth shopping bags from residents and our committee members to distribute to additional residents without cloth shopping bags.

Here are a few statistics that have encouraged our group members to dedicate themselves to this effort:

Single-use plastic bags:

- Usually get tossed after a single use and 20% of them wind up in the ocean
- Break down into tiny pieces that enter the food chain and are toxic to humans and animals
- Trap and are eaten by whales, birds, and turtles and kill wildlife
- Get loose as litter and are a blight on the landscape
- Accumulate in 5 different trash islands that cover up to 8% of the oceans
- **WE HAVE ALTERNATIVES. SIMPLE SOLUTIONS LIKE REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS!!**

Branford has 20 miles of coastline, and is known for its Thimble Islands, Branford Harbor and River, boating, fishing, clams and oyster beds, and swimming, plus spectacular views along the shore. All of this is one of Branford's most valuable assets. We ask for support from the RTM to pass this ordinance to help protect it now!

Sincerely,



Margaret (Meg) Kilgore
BYO Branford

Town of Branford
PROPOSED Ordinance to Reduce Plastic Trash
By Prohibiting Any Plastic Bags Being Used for Retail Checkout

Sections of the Document:

- Sec. 1- Purpose
- Sec. 2-Definitions
- Sec. 3-Restriction on Checkout Bags
- Sec. 4. Recyclable Paper Fees and Reusable Bag Credits
- Sec. 5- Operative Date
- Sec. 6-Penalty Amount

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 TOWN OF BRANFORD
 CLERK/TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Sec. 1- Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect and improve the environment of Branford including its coastline and marine life, and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents by reducing the use of plastic and paper bags and encouraging the use of reusable carryout bags.

Sec. 2- Definitions

The following words terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- a. *Checkout bag* means a carryout bag that is provided to a customer.
- b. *Retail sales* means the transfer to a customer of goods in exchange for payment occurring in retail stores, sidewalk sales, farmers' markets, flea markets, restaurants or other commercial or non-profit establishments which provide perishable or non-perishable goods.
- c. *Recyclable* means material that can be sorted, cleansed and reconstituted using Branford's available recycling collection programs for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. Recycling does not include burning, incinerating, converting, or otherwise thermally destroying solid waste.
- d. *Recyclable paper bag* means a paper bag that should have the following characteristics:
 - 1. Contains no old growth fiber, with certification by FSC (Forest Stewardship council) or another similar certification organization.

2. Is 100% recyclable overall and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content; and
 3. Displays the words "Reusable" and "Recyclable" on the outside of the bag.
- e. *Reusable bag* means a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses and is made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric.
 - g. *Regional stores* have 5 or more retail stores located in New England, New York or Connecticut.
 - f. *National stores* have 10 or more retail stores in Connecticut and the rest of the United States.

TOWN OF BRANFORD ORDINANCE

Sec. 3- Restriction on Checkout Bags

- a. Any business engaged in retail sales shall provide only reusable bags and/or recyclable paper bags as checkout bags to customers. No store in town shall provide plastic checkout bags to any customer.
- b. No business shall distribute any type of plastic bags at any town facility or any event held on town property.
- c. Nothing in this section shall preclude businesses engaged in retail sales from making reusable bags available for sale to customers.

Sec. 4. Recyclable Paper Fees and Reusable Bag Credits

- a. Stores shall charge and retain a fee of \$0.10 for each recyclable paper bag provided to a customer. This fee may increase by \$0.05 every five years.

AND/ OR

Stores shall provide a credit or rebate up to \$0.10 for each reusable bag provided by a customers for the purpose of carrying away goods. This credit or rebate may increase by \$0.05 every five years.

- b. The fee for recyclable paper bags shall not apply to customers making purchases using supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP),

supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC), or "food stamps". These customers will receive recyclable paper bags free of charge.

Sec. 5- Operative Date

a. This ordinance shall become operative as to 1) national and regional retail establishments six months following its effective date and to 2) all remaining retail establishments, vendors and non-profit vendors one year after its effective date to allow retail establishments to dispose of their existing inventory of single-use plastic checkout bags and convert to alternative packaging materials.

b. Affected retail establishments, vendors and non-profit vendors that have entered into agreements for the purchase of single-use plastic bags within the year prior to the effective date of this ordinance are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance for one additional year following its operative date.

Sec. 6- Penalty Amount

Any violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a civil fine of \$150 and eight hours of community service to improve Branford's environment performed by the retail establishment's management per incident. The procedure to process violations of this ordinance will be determined by amendment to the Town of Branford Code.