

Motion Carried (in a reusable bag)

Hingham Plastic Bag Reduction and Encourage Reusable Bag Bylaw Approved!

At the town meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd, Hingham joined 120 other communities in the state by enacting a bylaw to eliminate single use plastic bags. The primary goal of the bylaw is to reduce the amount of single use plastic that enters the environment. This is especially important because as Hingham is a coastal town, it would assist in preventing plastic from entering our waterways and conservation lands. Because of this it also will help avoid wildlife not inadvertently mistaking it as a food source.

With businesses no longer providing single-use plastic bags at checkout, they will be permitted to offer a bag made of paper. To assist our downtown businesses in making the change, the bylaw allows the business to offer a plain paper bag or one that is made of recyclable material. This caveat helps them make the transition without any substantial increase in operating costs.

The second goal of the bylaw is to encourage and promote the usage of reusable bags instead of paper. While paper is better for the environment as it can be composted, it does affect the environment in other ways because of the carbon footprint from its production.

Another note of the bylaw is that produce bags/product bags should be compostable and not rated as biodegradable.

The bylaw goes into effect on Nov. 1st 2019.

