



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting

The Exeter Sustainability Advisory Committee will in the Wheelwright Room,
Exeter Town Offices at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday, September 6th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call SAC Meeting to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Election of Officers
4. Approval of Minutes (03 May 2022, 07 June 2022 attached)
5. Action Items
 - a. Single-use plastic document for Exeter - Kristen Murphy
 - b. Feedback from sub-committees
6. Other Business:
7. 9. Adjourn

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday October 4th, 2022 at 7pm

Chetana Palmer
Sustainability Advisory Committee

Posted Sept 1st, 2022 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chris Zigmont.

Members Present: Chris Zigmont, Beverly Tappan, Nina Braun, Jackie Ojala, Adam Dumville

Staff and Select Board Member Present:

Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative

Motion by Adam, 2nd by Nina to approve meeting minutes from April 5th as presented.
Motion passes, unanimously.

Alewife Film Festival:

Four films selected for viewing. 1. Exeter Outdoors - Getting out on the river [7 min]: <https://youtu.be/QF3azRRhCyg>, 2. Climate Change - What does it mean for NH [9:14 min] <https://youtu.be/ktcVNILclIQ>, 3. NH Coast Flood Risk Summary: Science on Sea Level Rise, Storm Surge, Groundwater Rise, Extreme Precipitation, Freshwater Flooding: [6:26 min] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lcXhURxyUQ&t=1s>, 5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Film [14 min]: <https://youtu.be/rBNOkJ1UkRI>

Chetana has recommended for committee members to review the Ocean Action organization for additional film resources. If there are not enough films to fill from 4-6, they will be shown on a loop. Niko will follow up with Parks and Rec on reserving town hall.

Table Resources:

- Alternative products display (Bev will provide)
- Alternative packaging resources (Nina will provide)
- Flyer on Helpsy, Mr. Fox, recycle right repeated from DPW to emphasize.
- Film Fest advertisement
- Awards or any document to share regarding Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade.
- PEA students Junk Mail display
- Potential survey on public support for single use plastic policy.

Single Use Plastic Ban on Town Property:

Document was revised as follows: 24.03.2 replace with Prohibited Single Use Disposables brought by customers themselves. 24.04.3 Delete "In egregious circumstances."

Motion by Adam, second by Jackie to recommend forwarding modified document to the

Town Manager and Town counsel followed by public hearings at the Select Board. Motion passes unanimously.

Other Business: Jackie was seeking clean up site ideas:

Linden Street from Gary to the YMCA), Holland Way, Brentwood Road from Colcord Pond to Millstream.

Swasey Parkway closure is still under legal review.

Forest Carbon film series is available.

Committee discussed any vacancies are filled by Select Board appointment, officers often change roles yearly or every other year, election of officers should be on the next meeting agenda. Also the committee will look at creating a subcommittee to review the Mission Statement and Charge to see if there are any needed modifications.

With no additional business, Adam motioned, and Jackie seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Murphy



TOWN OF EXETER

Planning and Building Department

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www.exeternh.gov

Date: September 1, 2022

To: Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

From: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

Re: Single-Use Plastics Policy Survey

I created two surveys to evaluate impact and garner feedback on the draft “Single Use Plastics on Town Property” policy. One survey was specific to Town Departments, and the other was geared toward those who receive permits on Town property. Attached are the results of the survey.

Town Departments (57% Yes; 43% No, Policy will have adverse impacts)

It seems the majority of the responders expressed concerns over items I do not think this policy was intended to limit, and can be addressed by clarifying the policy. Town authority to implement this relies on health codes, and the Health Officer, James Murray would like to discuss oversight and implementation. The greatest impact will be to Exeter Parks and Recreation concession stand. Greg Bisson is committed to finding alternate solutions such as replacements for utensils, canned drinks, and he recently installed a water bottle refill station at the Rec Park and a number of other park properties. These changes alone will have a positive impact. Concession stand sales supplement funding for hiring seasonal staff to operate it and bottled water is a big part of that. Emergency services also expressed a reliance on plastic bottled drinks for incident response throughout town.

Town Permittees (44% Yes; 56% No, Policy will have adverse impacts):

I obtained a list of all permittees for the past 3 years and included a table of those who have received 4 or more. Overall, many responses were positive and several recommendations were offered. All responses are included in the report but here are some highlights: 1) The greatest concern was limiting the use of single use plastic water bottles. In addition to the comments in the survey, this was also expressed individually by 2 who receive the largest # of permits (Parks & Rec and TEAM). Both expressed that this would be dangerous to participants as they provide water for musicians, and alternatives are cost prohibitive. 2) Requests the town provide safe source of drinking water at all locations. 3) Requests the town provide recycling or composting options. 4) Requests to exempt small numbers of water (1 case of water or less/event). 5) Recommendation to exempt food safety items such as items packaged at the site of the business or a processing facility. 6) Meals on Wheels stated conforming to the policy would impact their service and be cost prohibitive.

Next Steps:

- 1) Clarify title of policy to address confusion based on questions submitted. I do not read this policy to apply to products such as sidewalk salt, trash bags, etc. as they are not “plastic bags provided at a point of sale for transporting foods or other goods”. These items are not distributed by the town and are better addressed through a town purchasing policy that recommends seeking alternatives where they exist.
- 2) Create allowance to address the **food safety concerns** for food items packaged at the site of the business or a processing facility
- 3) Work with DPW and the Swasey Trustees to explore the possibility of connecting the existing water source at Swasey near Park Street to a fountain near the bandstand. Approximate costs: \$5k for equipment and installation. Additional costs or in-house work to extend the line to the bandstand and for the water bill. These costs are not yet known.
- 4) Jay Perkins said DPW could offer recycling bins to permittees upon request if they commit to monitor them the avoid contamination with non-recyclable items.
- 5) Arrange a subcommittee to meet with James Murray to discuss implementation and oversight.

I offer the following additional recommendations:

- 1) Consider an **exemption for emergency services and human service related non-profit organizations**. We can certainly work with groups like Meals on Wheels to further evaluate needs and help them to seek out cost-effective alternatives but with multiple products used, this transition will take a significant amount of time so I feel an exemption is warranted.
- 2) Establish a subcommittee to work with **Parks and Recreation to discuss potential transition timelines, alternative options, and budget requirements to make the switch**.

I have drafted a revision of the policy reflecting these recommendations for your consideration.

Thank You.

enc (2)

Exeter Staff Survey: Single Use Plastics at Town Permitted Events

Survey Results

1. **The draft policy can be viewed at the following link: [SUP Draft Policy](#)**
Have you reviewed the draft single-use plastics policy?

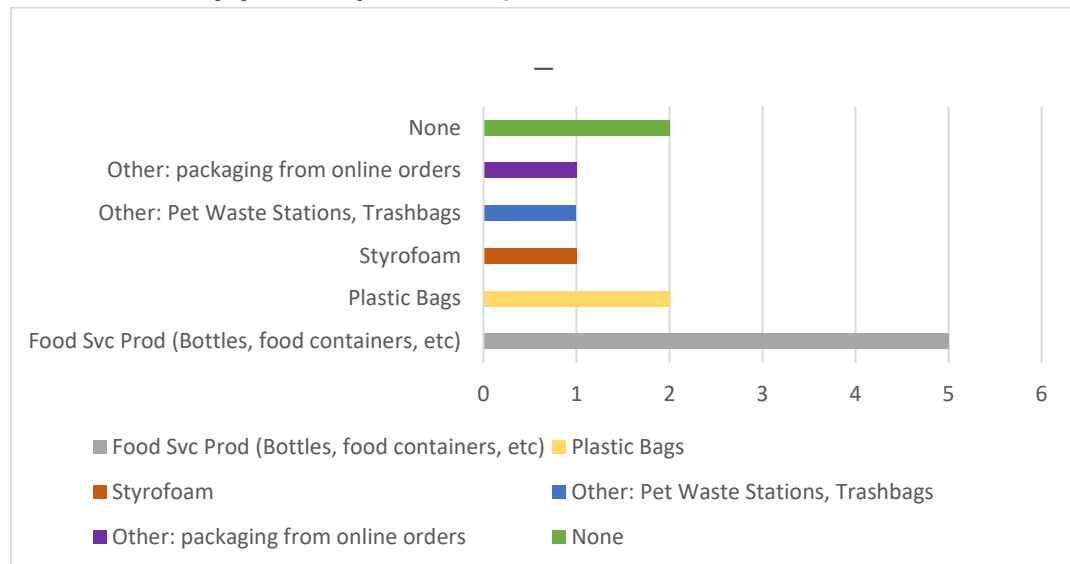
8 Total Responses

8 – YES

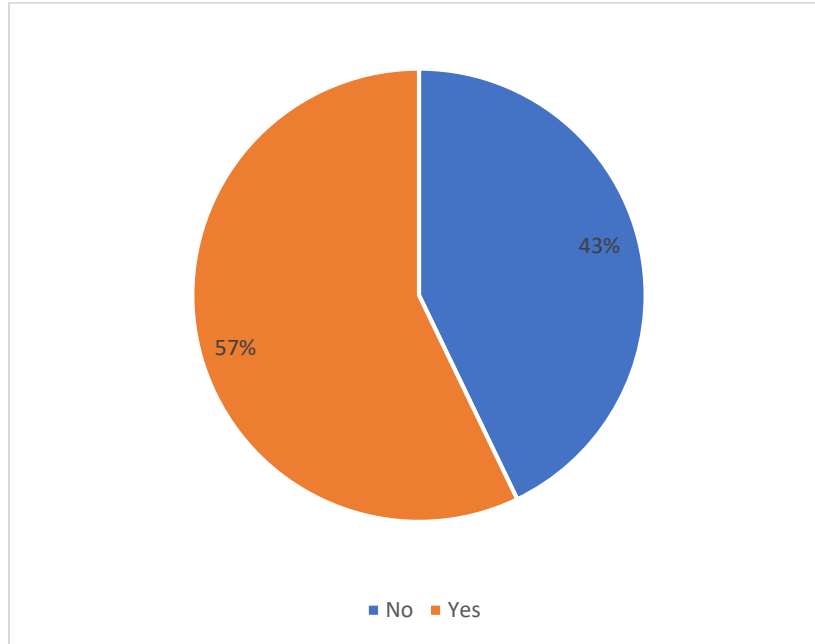
0 – NO

2. **What Department are you representing?**
 - a. Public Works
 - b. Town Manager & Welfare/Human Services
 - c. Parks and Recreation
 - d. Highway Department
 - e. Fire/EMS/Emergency Management/Health
 - f. EXTV/IT
 - g. Economic Development

3. **Please Indicate the types of single-use plastics purchase (or distributed by your department)**



4. Do you believe limiting the use of single-use plastic bags, food service products, or polystyrene containers on Town property or for Town-permitted events will harm your department?



Individual Responses Added:

- Answered above. No impact to EconDev unless food vendors avoid Exeter because of the inconvenience; I suspect some may.
- There would be no financial impact on the Health Department
- We rely on selling water at our pool to supplement patron and participates water consumption. The department needs to generate revenue to help pay for the operations of the pool. Along with it being a safety concern as parent, patrons and participants often forget water and in temps in the 80's and 90's, we need to make sure they have access to water
- Compostable bags are more expensive and not strong or large enough for litter barrels and pet waste stations.
- While I do not feel the policy would necessarily cause a financial hardship, I am very concerned of the optics of the policy. Fire/EMS and Emergency Management uses single use water bottles, Gatorade, and other such products at emergency

incidents throughout town. In addition, it is not un common for food to be distributed in single use containers to first responders.

5. Please provide any questions or clarification you need about this policy.

- How do coffee pods fit into the policy? Single use half & half pods? If I bring a sandwich in a plastic bag to work will I be fined?
- Does this include the single use Easter eggs we use for our hunts?
- Would this policy include employees that bring single use cups or other things with their lunch? And would it prevent them from getting a cup of coffee or soda in a Styrofoam cup when at work?
- The penalties and remedies section does not indicate who would be enforcing the policy.
- Who is the enforcement authority for this policy? If an out-of-town or out-of-state vendor is serving food at an event on Swasey Parkway, for example, would I be required to deny food vendor permits based on this?
- How does this affect plastic packaging? Nearly everything we order from amazon comes in a plastic bag or plastic bubble wrap. If Town departments are in violation, who will pay the fine? Are we going to fine ourselves? Does this affect town staff who bring in take-out food for lunch or for snacks? Many people in the break room get single-use food packages.

6. Do you have suggestions for modification to this policy?

- Maybe an exception for the pool/camp operations. We can [response cut off]
- I think you should look at all products the town currently uses and work with the department manager to make changes. We all want to do the right thing and I feel we don't need a policy to achieve this in a small town like ours.
- Indicate in the exceptions section that single use items, bought during, or delivered to emergency incidents/training are exempt

from the policy. Additionally, indicate a process for enforcement, and/or corrective actions recommended.

- I may after the food vendors weigh in.
- Enforcement needs clarification.
- Work in exceptions for town staff who bring in single-use plastics or other items for personal use? We require staff to use reusable water bottles on Town property if they don't want to, or can we?

7. Any additional feedback?

- If I purchase something from a store or restaurant (private property) and bring it back to work (or have it delivered) in the plastic container it came in, will I be fined?
- Who is going to manage this? And what if we cannot find a certain product that is not in a single use bag? Like ice melt or other materials? Also what if a compostable item is out of stock or double the cost? As you know we have very limited budgets.
- We are absolutely supportive of the initiative to reduce the use of plastics of any kind, but currently we are still very dependent on the products discussed above in our daily delivery of service.

8. Departments wishing further discussion

- Parks and Rec
- Health Department

Exeter Community Survey: Single Use Plastics at Town Permitted Events

Event Permit summary (2019 – 2 June 2022)

68 Individual Permittees

4 or More Permits During Evaluation Period

PERMITTEE	# Permits
Exeter TV	107
Farmers Market	104
Exeter Parks & Recreation	103
Team	70
NH Society of photographic	61
Prescott Park Arts Festival	59
Exeter Power Yoga	52
Pine St Players	31
Community Arts Initiative of	28
Seacoast Photographers A	20
Pine St Players at Christ Ch	16
Exeter Brass Band	15
Swag on Swasey	15
Main St Art	14
Seacoast Artist Assoc	13
Racial Unity Team	12
Heronfield Academy	11
Exeter Holiday Parade	9
PAGE, BRUCE	9
Assessing	8
Exeter Area Chamber of Co	7
LitFest	7
Exeter Town Office	6
Exeter Historical Society	5
Fiddle Ensemble/ Fiddle Le	5
Seacoast area CROP Hunger Walk	5
Exeter Area Kiwanis Club	4
Memorial Day Parade Com	4

Survey Results

1. **The draft policy can be viewed at the following link: SUP Draft Policy**
Have you reviewed the draft single-use plastics policy?

9 Total Responses

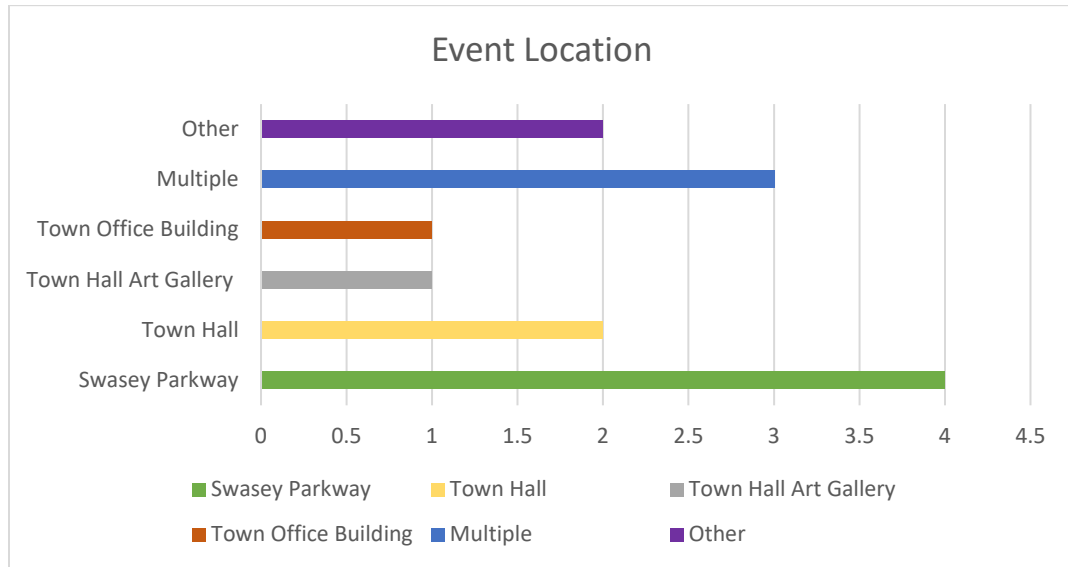
7 – YES

2 – NO (link to draft policy was down briefly)

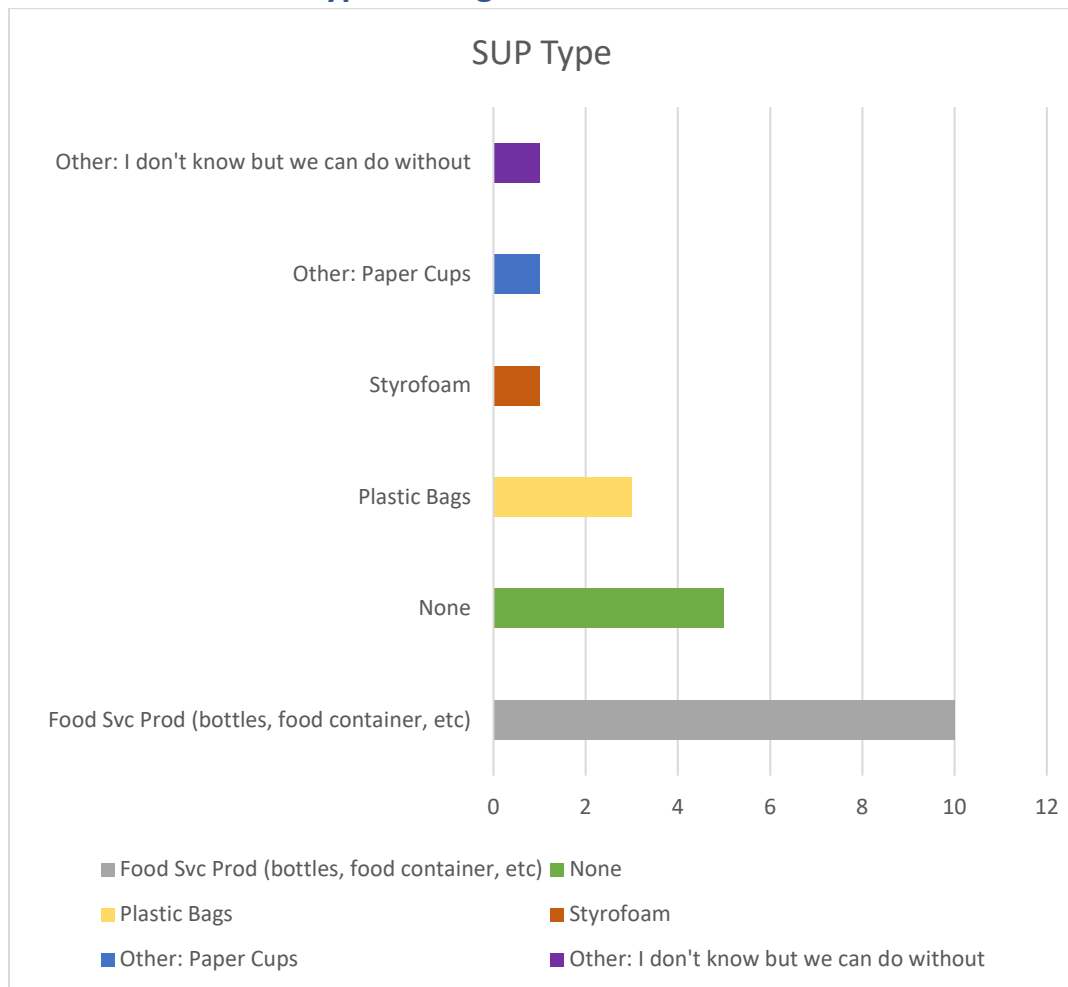
2. **Please Describe your business/organization**

- a. Bakery
- b. Kiwanis
- c. Non-Profit Scholarship
- d. Exeter Historical Society
- e. Arts Group
- f. Art Promoter
- g. CROP Hunger Walk
- h. Yoga Studio/Retail
- i. Energy Committee
- j. Racial Unity Team
- k. NGO Promoting Racial and Cultural Diversity
- l. Meals on Wheels
- m. Seacoast East Local (Exeter Farmers Market)
- n. I serve on multiple non-profit organizations, including Exeter Baha’I Community, Exeter Historical Society, Racial Unity Team
- o. Racial Unity Team

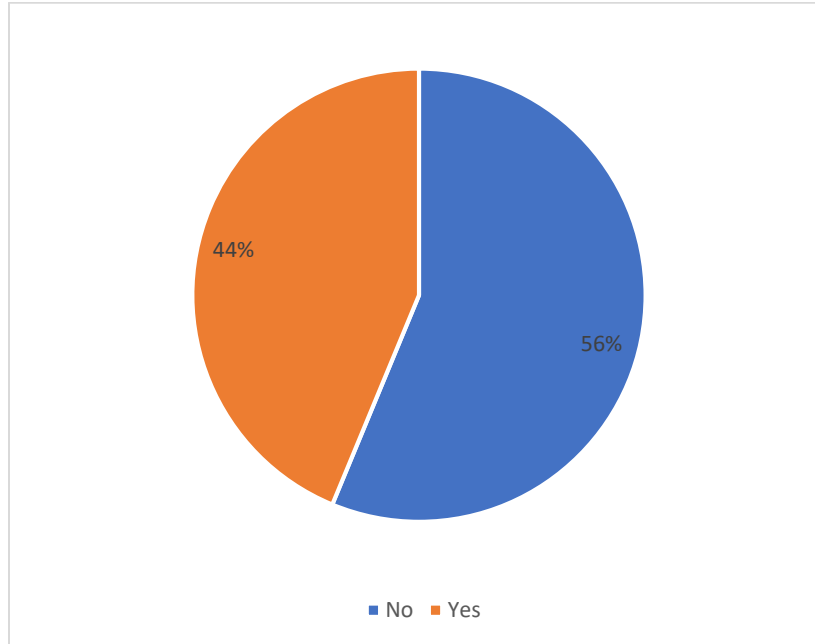
3. Please Indicate where you host events/activities



4. Please Indicate the type of Single Use Plastics You Use



5. Do you believe limiting the use of single-use plastic bags, food service products, or polystyrene containers on Town property or for Town-permitted events will harm your business or organization?



Individual Responses Added:

- We will adapt. Wax paper bags for single serve snacks. Not sure yet what we'll do about water, maybe switch a large jug & compostable cups.
- We already do this and applaud the broadening of such initiatives.
- It will require change and effort, but will not have any negative impacts.
- We will have to find a substitute for water bottles.

6. Please provide any questions or clarification you need about this policy.

- Ban single use plastic bags in the entire Town, including all stores - please !!!!!
- Please make it accessible. *[NOTE: I believe this refers to being unable to read the policy]*

- COVID 19 demands that we protect the food, water and other services we use at our events. We should encourage better and improved recycling services.
- Is single use compostable food service products the only alternative to single use plastic and Styrofoam? Or are biodegradable products an option as well? Will the town require that compostable products be separated from other trash? If so, will the town provide special bins for compostable goods or would they just get added to other recyclables?
- Would there be a limit? for example, at an event we would providing less than a single case of water to our participants.
- We'll adapt.

7. Do you have suggestions for modification to this policy?

- Possibly apply limits that only small amounts could be used rather than a complete ban
- Will we be able to bring a large bottle of water to serve from? (i.e. one big Poland Spring bottle rather than 30 single serve?)
- You may want to speak to proper gathering and disposal of customers' recyclable plastics and anyone's compostable containers.
- It would be great to extend this beyond Town property
- Love it.
- This statement in the draft policy ignores the impact of COVID "The Town of Exeter recognizes that limiting the distribution and subsequent disposal of single-use plastics through reduction is necessary to protect human health," They provide no solution to this problem.
- Study how to expand it.
- Additional exemptions are needed, such as packaging used to sell meat, lettuce mix, seafood, and other perishable products. These are all items that were packaged at the site of the business or a processing facility for food safety reasons.

- Yes, ban single use bags in the entire Town of Exeter, including all stores!

8. Any additional feedback?

- Good plan, as I said, we'll be fine & easily adapt to rules.
- Glad to see this initiative.
- Thank you for setting a great example for others to hopefully follow!
- Single use water bottles are over. RIP
- The draft policy should require the town to have a safe drinking water source available at all of its meeting locations should the policy in its current state be approved.
- 'DNS server is not responding,' so I couldn't access the policy.
- Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals to home bound residents of Exeter. We use plastic and Styrofoam to package our food for delivery and to serve meals at the Exeter Senior Center. The cost increase to switch to compostable products is substantial and could have a negative impact on our program, as we are a non-profit.
- Placing compostable item bins and recycling bins at town events would greatly help. Contracting with a business such as Mr. Fox composting would be necessary.
- Thank you for taking action! Now!!
- Could compost bins be available on Swasey Parkway for events? Just a thought! Thanks so much!

**DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS, FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS,
AND POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS ON TOWN PROPERTY**

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24.00 PURPOSE:

The Town of Exeter recognizes that limiting the distribution and subsequent disposal of single-use plastics through reduction is necessary to protect human health, to preserve the natural environment, and to promote sustainable and ethical practices regarding material waste.

24.01 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Section, the following definitions apply:

2401.01 *Reusable Bag*: a bag specifically designed for re-use, capable of being used one hundred and sixty (160) times and has stitched or woven handles. Reusable Bags include woven reusable plastic bags.

2401.02 *Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products*: a bag, bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is composed of one hundred percent (100%) Polylactic Acid (typically derived from plant-based starch such as corn) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.

2401.03 *Single-Use Plastic Bag*: a bag that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic derived from petroleum and provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or other goods.

2401.04 *Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products*: a bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic derived from either petroleum or natural gas, and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.

2401.05 *Single-Use Polystyrene Container*: a container or cup composed of synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymers that is made from the monomer styrene (often called Styrofoam) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purposes of transporting food.

24.02 DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS ON TOWN PROPERTY

No person shall distribute a prohibited single use disposable item at any town facility, town property, town-managed or sponsored event, or activity authorized through special permits issued under the authority of the Town of Exeter Select Board unless otherwise allowed under EXCEPTIONS 24.03.

Prohibited Single Use Disposables:

1. Single-Use Plastic Bags.
2. Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products.
3. Single-Use Polystyrene Containers.

24.03 PRODUCT EXCEPTIONS:

1. Reusable Bags
2. Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products
3. Packaging materials required for food safety reasons added at the site of the business or a processing facility. Examples: wrapping around meats, seafood, lettuce mix or other perishable products.
4. Products where alternatives to prohibited items do not exist.

24.04 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCEPTIONS:

1. All town departments/vendors may distribute their remaining inventory for 9 months following policy adoption
2. Items used by emergency responders or human service related non-profit organizations.
3. Prohibited Single Use Containers brought by staff/customers themselves
4. Exeter Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Sustainability Committee to develop a transition plan.

24.05 PENALTIES AND REMEDIES

In addition to any other penalty or remedy permissible by law for violation of this ordinance, the following shall apply:

1. If the **Town** determines a violation of this ordinance has occurred, a written warning that includes the potential penalties for future violations will be issued.
2. Upon a second or subsequent infraction of this ordinance, the Town interprets this as a direct violation of the vendor permit and cause for refusal to approve use permit.
3. The Town is authorized to issue citations, to persons, firms or corporations violating this ordinance in accordance with the ordinances of the Town of Exeter. Such citation may include fines of up to \$300.

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Commented [KM1]: The Health Department would like to have a meeting to discuss this process further.

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