

Proposed Warrant Article

Resolution to Support the Voluntary Elimination of Polystyrene

WHEREAS polystyrene constitutes a human health risk as it is the only plastic used in food packaging that is composed of the chemical styrene, likely a human carcinogen, which leaches into food and beverages especially when in contact with heat, oil or acid;

WHEREAS products made of polystyrene also cause harm to marine and terrestrial wildlife through entanglement and ingestion; exacerbate climate change due to hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions during manufacturing; and, in the foam form, are not recyclable and contaminate our recycling stream;

WHEREAS the Town believes it is important to protect the health of its citizens and the unique natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources of the Town and given that inexpensive, safe alternatives to polystyrene are easily obtained;

NOW THEREFORE, we express our support for voluntary action on the part of organizations and businesses in the Town providing goods, food or services to stop selling, distributing, or otherwise making available the following products made from polystyrene (with the plastic recycling code #6), including Styrofoam®:

- plates, cups, bowls, trays, cartons, containers, “clamshells”, lids, straws, stirrers, cutlery/utensils, and coolers used for serving, consuming, transporting, or packaging food or beverages
- new packing material such as packing ‘peanuts’, and molded and rigid sheet packing insulation.