

Mount Desert Islander

Real People, Real Places, Real News

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

WWW.MDISLANDER.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

Plastic bans going to vote in Tremont

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TREMONT — Voters at this year's Annual Town Meeting will decide if they want to ban single-use plastic bags, polystyrene (Styrofoam) to-go containers and fireworks in town.

Initial drafts of ordinances addressing all three proposed bans for the town were presented to selectmen during their meeting Monday. Selectmen voted 4-1 in favor of putting the proposed plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances before voters in May by secret ballot.

Residents of Southwest Harbor banned the use of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers in November. Mount Desert and Bar Harbor officials are considering ordinances that would do the same in their towns.

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Carey Donovan and Jill Higgins, members of A Climate to Thrive, attended the selectmen meeting to offer insight on feedback from area businesses to the possible change. Of the 13 they contacted, 10 were fully in support of the change, said Donovan.

Most are "already doing all the things we would want them to be doing," she said.

One restaurant the group contacted did not like the idea of the ban being an ordinance, even though they are already mostly in compliance with the change. Donovan reported.

All five selectmen were in favor of putting the ordinance banning fireworks, except with a permit or on designated holidays, before voters via secret ballot.