



## TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

**Thursday, June 13, 2019**

**TOWN MEETING HALL**

**Northeast Harbor**

Members Present:  
Phil Lichtenstein, Chair  
Dennis Shubert  
Ellen Kappes  
Sydney Roberts Rockefeller

Meeting convened at 1600

1. The Chair recognized the focus of the Neighborhood House on sustainability efforts.
2. The Chair noted that the State of Maine has passed legislation regulation single use plastic bags.
3. The Chair explained that the chilled water bottle filler located in the Marina is delayed until the first week in July.
4. The committee learned that the Sustainability efforts were noted in the Port Directory.
5. After extensive discussion of solid waste, focusing on plastic and recycling the committee concludes that:
  - a. We are all individually and in common responsible for our impact on our world caused by the purchase, use and disposal of products such as plastic.
  - b. Plastic items are an example of: our need to minimize the use of plastics, dispose of plastics in a responsible way, accept responsibility for the disposed plastics. When disposed plastic leaves the Town we are still responsible for the impact of the disposed plastic. The practical impact of this accountability is that the Town must make a best effort to ensure that plastic waste is recycled, burned, or buried in the most sustainable fashion even if the cost to us may be more than alternatives given the fact that we purchased and used the item.

- c. The committee discussed the recycling alternatives with the City of Ellsworth and Fiberight. Given the fluid nature of the marketplace and Fiberight operations, the committee cannot opine based on facts as to the preferred solutions. The committee is concerned that the market value of recycled solid waste is a factor but not the supreme factor in deciding Town actions. It is our solid waste polluting the ocean.
6. The next Sustainability Committee Meeting is September 12, 2019 at 4 PM at the Town Meeting Room.