



Friends of the Malden River

friendsofthemaldenriver@gmail.com

Re: Proposed amendment to Title 9, Chapter .08, section 030

Dear Councillors of the Rules and Ordinance Committee,

The Friends of the Malden River applaud the proposed amendment to Title 9, chapter .08, section 030 for proprietary removal of litter at the entrances of businesses. We especially applaud the installation and maintenance of cigarette litter receptacles at the entryway. We urge the council to pass this ordinance amendment this fall.

As a reference, the Malden River Trash Trap is regularly maintained by Rich Whelan of the Gentle Giant Rowing Club. The City of Malden hauls away the bags of trash removed from the Trash Trap. There have been ____ cleanouts this year with the haul being between 5-11 (40-gallon) bags of trash and organics. This trash is from the streets of Malden. The street litter hotspots are the business districts. I believe that the residential recycling lidded receptacles have reduced the amount of single use plastics flushed into the Malden River. Eliminating single use plastics and rigorous trash ordinances will stop major sources of street litter entering the river.

The amount of cigarette butts pulled out of the trash is vast and immeasurable and gross. The filters do not break down and just accumulate along the shorelines if they escape the trap. They are caught in the leaves that are washed down the storm drains. This organic waste also harbors problems such as chemicals, bacteria, and concentrated nitrogen that harms our environment. *It would be beneficial to extend the street cleaning schedule to starting in April and ending in November to pick up the cigarette butts thrown out of car windows and the organic waste that accumulates through November.*

We all understand this problem and we thank you for extending the ordinance to emphasize the responsibility of business owners to maintain their property. We would encourage the Rules and Ordinance committees to include bars and restaurants in the list of businesses required to install and maintain cigarette butt receptacles. People leave the premises to smoke and may not have a receptacle to put their cigarette butts.

Our questions regarding this ordinance include:

- Will there be an informational letter sent to the business to explain the need for this ordinance and the reason for its enforcement?
- How will this ordinance be enforced? For example, the Friends are working with the Conservation Commission as "Eyes of the River". We report to the ConCom if we see examples of non-compliance with the extended ordinance. Would we report infractions of this ordinance to the Department of

Public Health? See, Click, Fix sends members of the DPW to clean up other people's messes. Could that be utilized to report infractions without obligation of DPW?

- Could the fines be designated to a Beautify Malden Fund?

This is not within the scope of the ordinance, but the Friends of the Malden River will help start a city campaign to reduce litter. We would need municipal support.

Could we start a "Malden Sparkles" Pledge? Businesses and residents would take a pledge to keep their sidewalks, tree pits and catch basins clean and receive a sticker for their windows (business window/car window) as a thank you and as an advertisement for following their pledge: "We took the pledge to keep Malden clean. – Will you? "

Perhaps, the fines could be utilized for a shared purchase of this:

And just noting this product: [BISSELL COMMERCIAL](#) Walk Behind Sweeper: 38 in Cleaning Path Wd, Manual, Triple Brush, Polyethylene \$1550

The Friends of Malden River also want to note that the ban on single-use plastic bags is not being uniformly enforced. There are single-use plastic bags that are distributed from businesses operating in the City of Malden.

Re: .12.020 USE OF RECYCLABLE AND REUSABLE BAGS BY RETAILERS Purposes:

1. For the purpose of reducing the use of single-use plastic bags to protect the land and marine environment and waterways, minimize litter, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, single-use plastic bags create a burden for solid waste collection and recycling facilities, clog storm drainage systems, and require the use of millions of barrels of crude oil nationally for their manufacture.
2. For the purpose of reducing the number of single-use plastic bags that are being used, discarded, and/or littered, and to promote the use of Reusable Bags and Recyclable Paper Bags by Retail Establishments in the City of Malden (the "City").

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Karen Buck
on behalf of the Friends of the Malden River

Mission of The Friends of Malden River: The Friends of the Malden River seek to promote awareness of and interest in the Malden River, improve its water quality, and increase access for public enjoyment.