Ordinance mandates polystyrene recycling

9/21/90 RC

(Continued from page 15)

like McDonald's which offers take-out service must prove that its take-out containers are recycled, LaVoie said.

For the small restauranteur who uses a minimal amount of polystyrene packaging, it may be wiser to use paper products rather than trying to set up a recycling program. McDonald's, one of the town's major users of polystyrene packaging, has set up its own recycling program.

"It's a tough standard, but that's what this town wanted," LaVoie said. Anyone using polystyrene who cannot show a recycling effort may have the polystyrene banned, LaVoie said.

But polystyrene may be used for packaging meat, poultry and fish, according to the ordinance.

Polystyrene is a detriment to the environment, LaVoie said. It is made of a non-renewable resource, petroleum. The substance leaches out into foods, LaVoie said.

If the ordinance is adopted, the town will set up a five-member task force to educate the public and promote the new ordinance. The ordinance takes effect Dec. 1.

After the Board of Selectmen adopts the ordinance, the town has 15 days to protest the new law through a petition.

Selectmen had enthusiastically endorsed a polystyrene ban and planned to adopt it, despite the state law. However, they reconsidered after learning that adopting the ordinance would violate the charter.

LaVoie revised the ordinance to ban polyvinyl chloride because the state law does not address the substance. The state law does say that towns may regulate the recycling of polystrene packaging.

If the new measure is adopted, Winsted officials will have to appoint someone to monitor the recycling efforts. Linda Condon, the town's recycling coordinator, has offered to take the job.

Ordinance bans chloride; mandates foam recycling

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By JUNE PETERSON
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — A proposed town ordinance will ban the use of polyvinyl chloride and force restaurants and stores to begin a comprehensive recycling plan for polystyrene.

The revised ordinance conforms to a state law that prohibits local communities from banning the use of polystyrene foam.

Polyvinyl chloride, a plastic, is used in some containers and plastic forks, said community attorney Charlene LaVoie, who drafted the ordinance.

"One problem is that chlorine used in it is very noxious and toxic," LaVoie said. Those restaurants and stores that use polyvinyl products will have to find substitutes, LaVoie said.

Although polystyrene is no longer banned, as proposed in the original ordinance, local restaurants will have to demonstrate they are recycling 75 percent of total packaging, LaVoie said.

"That includes on premises and off premises packaging," LaVoie said. For instance, a restaurant

See ORDINANCE, page 18