Foam flap may pit town

By JUNE PETERSON
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — Unless an agreement is reached next week, the town may start to do battle with a large corporation over the recycling of polystyrene products.

In a letter dated July 8 to First National Supermarkets Inc.'s attorney, Town Manager Wayne W. Dove wrote that the Winsted Finast has "10 working days to" draft "a reasonable plan . . ." to recycle polystyrene products.

Finast supermarket, a division of First National, has yet to provide the town with such a plan to comply with an ordinance that makes the recycling of polystyrene foam mandatory.

Gail Shelton, spokesman for the Windsor Locks-based First National, said yesterday that the corporation is trying to work out the details of recycling polystyrene.

In November, William Eichner, the enforcement officer, sent out letters to all local business that use the plastic foam product and asked that they provide the town with a plan of compliance by Dec. 15. The town has yet to receive any plan from Finast, Dove said.

All other businesses complied, Dove wrote in the letter.

Under the ordinance, which became effective Dec. 1, food vendors must demonstrate monthly that between Dec. 1 and Nov. 30, 1992, at least 50 percent of polystyrene being used is recycled.

Rather than recycle the polystyrene — commonly used by fast-food restaurants to package hamburgers and other cooked items and grocery stores to