

Foam ban agreement reached 7-20-91

By JUNE PETERSON
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — In an effort to comply with town regulations, the local Finast supermarket plans to cut down on its use of polystyrene foam packaging and switch to an alternate material.

Robert E. Fortier, group vice-president of First National Supermarkets Inc. wrote in a letter that the store plans to comply with the ordinance. Under the ordinance, local businesses must prove they are recycling 50 percent of the polystyrene used.

According to Fortier's letter, Finast has ordered alternative packaging for the polystyrene trays that are used to package meats, fruit and vegetables. In addition, Finast will replace deli cups used for salads.

Under the ordinance, the store is still allowed to use polystyrene to package meat, poultry and fish.

Dove said that Finast plans to use a paper-based product.

Finast officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Finast representatives met Wednesday in Winsted with Dove and community lawyer Charlene LaVoie.

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Finast, Winsted agree on foam ban

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who drafted the ordinance, to discuss the plan.

"Mr. Fortier of First National exemplified a very cooperative attitude which I knew Finast would once we could sit down and talk it out," Dove said yesterday.

Finast located on Route 44 was the only business in town not to comply with the foam ban, Dove said. Finast was to have a plan of compliance ready for the town by Dec. 15, but never submitted any sort of document.

Last week Dove wrote to Finast's attorney and told them if the company did not submit the plan within 10 working days then a fine of \$100 per day would be implemented. Finast submitted the plan Thursday. The plan will stop the town from imposing penalties against the supermarket because it did not comply with local law.

Finast attempted to recycle polystyrene by providing a bin for customers to return the product. However, that effort did not meet the spirit of the law which requires the food vendor, not the consumer, to recycle. Recycling polystyrene is difficult because there are no local firms that handle or recycle the product. Because of that, local businesses have decided to use a substitute product, generally paper-based, to replace polystyrene.

Polystyrene is a plastic material commonly used to make "clamshell" containers used by fast food restaurants for sandwiches.

The Board of Selectmen adopted the ordinance, which became effective in December 1990, last year. Polystyrene is made from toxic materials and takes years to disintegrate, clogging up landfills. In addition to forcing the recycling of polystyrene, the ordinance bans the use and sale of polyvinyl chloride, which is primarily used in plastic utensils.