

Littlefield, Hart re-elected; plastic bag ban approved

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MOUNT DESERT — Wendy Littlefield and Matt Hart were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Selectmen in voting on Monday, outpolling challenger Ian Schwartz.

Littlefield received 216 votes, Hart 180 and Schwartz 55.

Todd Graham and Teresa King-LeClair were re-elected to three-year terms on the Mount Desert School Committee, having run unopposed.

At the open floor Town Meeting Tuesday night, voters approved a ban on single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene food containers, a bond issue for sidewalk work, repairs to a retaining wall near the Seal Harbor Yacht Club and work on the town-owned “bait house.”

The \$10.2 million municipal operations budget and \$4 million Mount Desert Elementary School budget were approved as presented, but funding for the town’s economic development consultant sparked debate.

Mount Desert became the third Mount Desert Island town to pass the ordinances on plastic bags and polystyrene containers, after a group of then-eighth-grade students began promoting the change last spring. Tremont is set to vote on similar ordinances next week. Last week, Governor Janet Mills signed into law a statewide polystyrene food container ban, the first such state law in the country. But the new ordinances go into effect immediately (May 8), and the change in state law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2021.

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