



PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING MINUTES

Adult Use Marijuana

September 24, 2018

Members Present: Paul Anderson (Chair), Marc Frieden, Sarah Miles, Barur Rajeshkumar, Vincent Vignaly

Members Absent: None

Others Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

All documents referenced in these Minutes are stored and available for public inspection in the Planning Board Office located at 140 Worcester Street.

The Chair opened the Meeting and Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Miles read the Public Notice for this meeting that was published in the Telegram on September 10 and 17, 2018. In attendance from the Marijuana Subcommittee of the Selectmen were Chris Rucho, Robert Barrell, Chris Berglund, David Femia, and Andrew Feland. The Telegram newspaper Tear Sheets were submitted to the Board before the meeting.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the background of the State Law and past Town Meeting actions relative to marijuana use and operations in town. He explained that the current version of the Bylaw allows all the uses that have been defined in the State model except for 'Marijuana Social Clubs', and there is a requirement that no consumption be allowed at any of the permitted sites.

There were questions from the public and concerns over where the Adult Marijuana establishments would be allowed. Generally, they will be allowed in the Business, Industrial, and Commercial/Limited Industrial zoning districts; with limitations therein to keep them more than 500' from certain sensitive sites, such as schools, day-care centers, places of worship, libraries, parks, or playgrounds. The discussion of 500' versus 1,000' was explained to be because if the distance was 1,000' there would be very little potential area for the facilities to be sited.

Mr. Rajeshkumar noted that the bylaws allow only two (2) Retail establishments in town, though there is no limit to the number of other Adult Use Marijuana establishment types.

Mr. Barrell, Chairman of the Board of Health explained that the Board of Health will likely create regulations that would apply to some of the facilities that would fall under their jurisdiction to protect the public safety and welfare, such as smoking, food preparation, and health.

Mr. Rucho said that there will be two other Town Meeting Warrant Articles related to Adult Use Marijuana. The first being a prohibition of any of these uses; and lastly, an article to permit the Selectmen to charge a fee of 3% for Town Services to protect the safety and conditions at the property by the police, fire, and other related services. This is in addition to the 3% sales tax.

Those present at the meeting said it was a good idea to provide a large map clearly showing where these facilities could be located. CMRPC will be contacted to provide this before the Town Meeting.

Mr. Vignaly reviewed process and bylaw wording inconsistencies that will be incorporated in the final edits after review by Town Counsel is completed.

Mr. Rajeshkumar made a motion to close the public hearing; Ms. Miles seconded; all voted in favor except Mr. Frieden who abstained; motion approved.

Ms. Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35; Mr. Rajeshkumar seconded; all voted in favor.

Date Accepted: _____

By: _____
Vincent P. Vignaly, Clerk

Submitted by: _____
Vincent P. Vignaly