

Town of Waldoboro
Marijuana Committee Minutes
November 18, 2019

1. Call to Order

Attending members at the starting time of 4:00 pm: Renee Grover, Freeman Zausner, Theodore Wooster, Amanda Tavernakis, and Max Johnstone for minutes.

2. Minutes

Freeman pointed out that Surran's name was misspelled in the September and October minutes. Freeman-Renee voted to approve the September and October minutes with corrections. Motion was approved 2-0-2 with Ted and Amanda abstaining.

3. Old Business

a. Scope of Committee

Scope was provided once more for Ted and Amanda. Focus of the Committee is to recommend regulations for medical caregivers if the Committee believes recommendations are needed. These recommendations must be allowed within the current rules set forth by the State of Maine.

b. Medical Dispensary

Max provided references in the Land Use Ordinance that reference Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Cultivation Facilities. Max mentioned that Waldoboro is under a moratorium that prevents these businesses from operation, but the recommendations he has would have Waldoboro permanently "opt-out". Freeman said that this was originally created to protect the Town from allowing a Dispensary without regulations. Freeman then noted that the moratorium received almost unanimous support with only two votes opposing the measure; Max pointed out the "no" votes were because the moratorium did not apply to caregivers.

Max read through the document that had references to Medical Marijuana, and the suggestion for the updated version that would strike the language. Max said Michael Stoltz from Maine Municipal Association said that this change is required for Waldoboro to not allow Dispensaries. Amanda asked how this impact cultivation facilities for caregivers; Renee said this would only apply to dispensaries; Max added on that it would also apply to non-caregivers that are growing and selling, but also said Freeman's assessment was correct. Ted said he hasn't heard anything about advertisement restrictions; Amanda said that the State law already covers that. Max said that the next step would have the Planning Board review it for public discussion.

Freeman-Ted motioned to approve recommendations. Motion approved unanimously.

Renee said that she wants the Committee to only focus on the scope now; Max said this was more of a practice of how future meetings would be conducted when reviewing materials and language for possible recommendations.

c. Meetings

Max said that two meetings a month were proposed in October, which would have one for education and one for working on the ordinance. Ted does not want a monthly meeting and would rather have the Committee gather when there is relevant information on the topic; Max said that a monthly meeting would discuss sections of the ordinance, but there was a proposal last meeting to also do some education. Renee suggested a two-hour meeting to combine education and section work. Meetings will continue being on the third Monday of the month.

4. New Business

Freeman read rules in place in Cumberland, Maine and was unsure if all rules are allowed. The rules included odors, signage, setbacks from public locations, including the fire department, security measures, and providing a contact person to emergency services; Renee said all those points are fine; Amanda mentioned that the contact person is in case there is a problem at the caregiver's location. Ted asked if Max knows about the amount of phone calls in response to cannabis-related incidents; Max does not know; Renee said that there must be a hard-wired security system at facilities. Freeman asked why private caregivers needed exterior lighting if the point was for privacy; Renee and Amanda said it was for security and deter people from breaking in. Renee suggested including better enforcement on complaints; Amanda said there will likely be pushback from those rules; Renee clarified that her example is meant for multiple complaints.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on December 16th at 4pm to look at existing municipality rules on medical marijuana caregivers. The meeting will be played by ear since it is close to the Holiday season.

ADJOURN