

Town of Waldoboro
Marijuana Committee Minutes
June 15, 2020

1. Call to Order

Attending members at the starting time of 4:15 pm: Surran Pyne, Freeman Zausner, Susan Szwed, and Max Johnstone for minutes.

Attending guests: Mike Thayer

2. Minutes

Max did not have minutes to distribute. The minutes from the January and December meetings will be distributed in addition to the June minutes for the next meeting.

3. Environmental Impact (Mike Thayer)

Surran requested Mike attend to discuss any environmental issues that can relate to the cultivation of medical marijuana.

Mike noted that he is not a cultivator of marijuana or an expert on growing marijuana. Regardless, Mike said it is a robust and simple plant that follows a basic process of drying the plant to harvest the seeds, stems, and twigs. Mike said the cannabis oil can be extracted using solvents but is not sure what type. Mike said that most solvents do have a negative impact on the environment. Mike cited the issue with the Sylvania plant is they used chlorinated solvents and that even gasoline could be used as a solvent. Mike worries that an amateur could be highly exposed to chemicals and possibly dump the chemicals when done with it.

Surran asked if there were any state regulations relating to cultivation and chemicals; Mike said it was unlikely and would be amazed if there were regulations on processing. Susan asked if there was a difference between processing medical and recreational marijuana; Mike said no and that the difference is the end use. Susan asked about the technique of pressing the marijuana; Mike said that is used to extract CBD oil, which has very little psychoactive ingredients. Freeman asked if solvents are flammable; Mike said that more accessible solvents are flammable.

Surran brought up previous meetings and the safety features that should be part of the discussion, which included considering the amount of wattage and electricity for a growing operation. Mike estimated a single 400 watt bulb to grow roughly a dozen plants, but that is only for personal/home grown people. Surran said the focus is on home caregivers. Mike proposed that any caregivers should follow national electrical code to ensure the caregiver is not overloading the system, which is the standard for all businesses; Max said that the Land Use Ordinance does have that in the General Performance Standards on page 4-3 (Construction Standards).

Surran asked if new businesses work with the town until they are up and running; Max said he and Stan always talk with the business owners that show. Max said some people don't come to the town office, but we follow up and have an after the fact penalty for construction. Mike asked if the town regulates the industry; Max said that we did discuss the option of putting in a business license for stores and special cultivation facilities. Surran said there are eighteen medical home

caregivers. Mike asked if Highbrow was a medical or recreational store; Max said that he spoke to the owner recently and confirmed they are staying medical until Waldoboro allows recreational. Susan said that she believes that cannabis plants are susceptible to mold; Mike, speaking as a gardener, said there are two types of molds. The first is overwatering the foliage and the second is caused by not drying a plant before storing it. Susan has only heard about the mold from overwatering and as the marijuana grows.

Susan, as a new member, asked if the focus is only on home caregivers or if this is also commercial growers; Max confirmed no commercial growers allowed. Susan also asked how meeting attendance is handled; Max and Surran pointed out that the committee may remove members who fail to attend three meetings within a year. Max said that the rule is not enforced unless the member(s) are intentionally avoiding meetings.

4. Next Meeting

Surran suggested having Mike come back to a future meeting where Renee is in attendance. Surran said that the committee should also begin with the recommendations and possible ordinance to the Select Board

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20.

Note: After the meeting was over, the committee chose to change the meeting time to the second Tuesday of each month (July 14) since Renee's schedule has changed.

ADJOURN