

Marijuana (MJ) Committee Minutes
Town of Waldoboro
Municipal Building, 1600 Atlantic Highway
Monday, October 2, 2017 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1 Determine a quorum- Six of Nine present- quorum achieved
Kate Marone- Chairperson-present
Andrew Zulieve -Vice chair-absent
Marcia Smolin-Secretary-present
Charles (Chaz) Doherty-absent
Chris Jones-present
Jane Surran Pyne -present
Amanda Tavernakis-present
Will Weaver-present
Ted Wooster-absent

1.2 Present in the Audience:
Town Manager- Julie Keizer
Select Board member-Bob Butler
Citizen-Freeman Zausner
2. Adjustments to the Agenda- None
3. Consent Calendar:
 - 3.1 Approved September 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes
4. Citizen comments
 - 4.1 Freeman Zausner - Questions and discussion about:
Why not wait and see what happens with other towns?
Let us be cautious about what we decide upon.
Let us defer our decision for at least a year to see how things develop.
I have many concerns:
 - a. Our children-MJ is detrimental to their mental development.
 - b. Reputation of the Town-What image will we portray if we approve retail MJ businesses?
 - c. Real Estate- "Residential Real Estate is the biggest town tax revenue generator in Waldoboro." Elders and families with children will be turned off by the MJ businesses and will not move to Waldoboro. This will lead to lower home prices and less town revenue.

5. Old Business

5.1 Status of Neighboring Towns

1a. Town of Bristol- The Planning Board and Board of Selectman initiated a temporary ban ordinance on MJ retail businesses rather than a moratorium. It was approved by the residents by nearly a 2 -to-1 margin during a special town meeting on August 22,2017. The temporary ban ordinance gives the town more time than the moratorium to develop its own regulations after the state finishes its rule making process.

1b. Town of Jefferson- On September 25, 2017 during a public hearing, an ordinance was proposed to temporarily ban recreational MJ related businesses. Residents will decide whether to enact this ban in a referendum vote November 7, 2017.

5.2 Cooperative Models-Tabled

5.3 Data- Kate Marone-Chair

We need to develop a thoughtful plan to present to the Select board. Recommend we gather data from the following areas of impact:

3a. Zoning and Planning

3b. Finances

3c. Energy

3d. Schools

3e. Health care

3f. Real Estate Market

5.4 Strategies to gather town input

Town resident survey-further discussion needed

6. New Business

6.1 Discussion with Police Chief Bill LaBombarde

1a. Since the State MJ Bill is not yet law, there is nothing official to enforce.

1b. For impaired driving purposes, there are no impairment tests for MJ yet. We only have a Field of Sobriety Test which the courts have not recognized.

1c. Blood and urine drug tests are sent to a Pennsylvania lab and cost around \$400.

1d. The Waldoboro Police are very busy and are understaffed by one officer. The Chief expects a significant increase in drug-related calls with a spike in crime if the town approves Recreational MJ-related businesses. He expects he will need to hire at least one officer and maybe more. One officer costs the town approximately \$65,000 per year which includes their benefits.

1e. Will Weaver-MJ grower- Reports MJ has been shipped all over the country for the past 40 years and likens it to California shipping its fruit throughout the states. He projects exporting MJ out of Waldoboro is the future of the industry, not retail stores.

1f. The Chief stated. We need to maintain and grow our integrity in Waldoboro. We need to be careful and make sure what we do today will be in the best interest for the people of Waldoboro.

1g. Kate Marone (Chair) stated. There is a lot of uncertainty. We need to gain input from the towns people to see where they stand. We also need to make sure we have the

appropriate amount of time needed to make our own recreational MJ related business regulations after the State Bill is passed so we can do it in a prudent and cautious manner. 1h. Marcia Smolin (Retired Physician) stated. Marcia had spoken recently with Jane Oberton, one of the three OPLA analysts which support the Joint Select Committee on Marijuana Legalization in Augusta. Jane reported the Committee had almost unanimously approved the draft of the bill and will be sending it for legislative vote in Special session the end of October 2017. If the Legislative body votes it into law then the Governor can accept it or veto it. If it passes both, then it becomes law and then the state needs to develop rules which will govern the licenses for the MJ related businesses. February 1, 2018 is the first possibility of legal issuance of licenses however, the state is not optimistic they will meet this deadline. It will more likely be somewhere in the Spring 2018.

1g. Bob Butler (Select Board member) stated. We need to pay attention to the above timeline to make sure we have the time we need to make our decisions. We may run out of time for the June 2018 citizen vote about MJ businesses. We can however, hold a Special town meeting before then to place a moratorium on MJ related businesses but it does take at least 7 days to initiate and sometimes things do not go as planned.

6.2 Identify Additional topics for consideration

Committee discussed absenteeism. Bob Butler thought the committee rule was 3 absences in a row could lead to removal. He reported it was up to the committee. The committee unanimously approved 3 absences in a row would lead to removal from the committee.

6.3 Revise/Update meeting Schedule

Discussed Julie Keizer (Town manager) reported dates on the calendar open to hold the committee meetings as 1st and 3rd Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Surran reported Tuesdays were better for her, the rest were OK with either. Since we were missing 3 members, Kate will contact them by e-mail to check for their availability.

Proposed next meeting for 10/17 or 10/18 at 5:30PM.

7. Adjourned 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Marcia Smolin