

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Ad-Hoc Marijuana Legalization Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting
Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. – Regular Session

Chair Bruce Wilson called the Regular Session of the Ad-Hoc Marijuana Legalization Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Catherine Barden, Fillmore McPherson, Trent Joseph, Erin Mannix, Jack Dobson, Mary Ann Connelly, David Courtney, and Ann Rumberger, Erin Girard.

1. Public comment.

None.

2. Update from Town Liaisons.

Trent Joseph, Director of Health – his department has not moved on anything as the State Health department is handling establishing protocols and he is awaiting direction on the involvement of local health departments.

Erin Mannix, Town Planner – reports that Planning and Zoning established moratorium on adult cannabis sales to allow this committee time to establish recommendations for the Board of Selectmen. This moratorium will expire on 7/1/23.

Catherine Barden, Assistant Director of Community Support (MY&FS) – have launched a series of Facebook posts on talking to your children about marijuana use and vaping. Will be working with Town first responders and Health department on opioid initiative. Continue to work with Regional partners; continue to reach out to legislature on penalties associated with possession.

Board member Mary Ann Connelly is against having dispensary in town selling anything that should, in her opinion, be prescribed by a doctor.

3. Discuss and take action on recommendation to BOS to allow or prohibit commercial cannabis activities in Madison.

Motion by Fillmore McPherson seconded by Jack Dobson to discuss the legalization of marijuana sales in Madison, **unanimously approved.**

Discussion of need to better understand impact on Town, whether this commercial activity/presence in general fits with Town image, ability to enforce/test for driving under the influence, impact on adolescent brain development. Ann Rumberger is not comfortable moving forward with commercial sale of cannabis in town as there are still too many unknowns. Three citizen comments were entered – two in favor of dispensaries and one against. Jack Dobson would not at this juncture prohibit a dispensary arguing that marijuana should be treated like alcohol which is permitted/condoned despite its social ills.

Motion by Bruce Wilson seconded by Fillmore McPherson to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to prohibit all commercial cannabis activities in Madison.

Vote: this motion passed 4-3.

4. Discuss and take action on recommendation to BOS to send question regarding commercial cannabis to referendum.

Motion by Bruce Wilson seconded by Fillmore McPherson to recommend to the Board of Selectmen they send this question to referendum at the time of the budget referendum for a town-wide vote in May.

Board consensus is due to split opinion of board members, a referendum is a good idea to get pulse of community.

Vote: this motion passed unanimously.

5. Adjourn.

Motion by Bruce Wilson seconded by Fillmore McPherson to adjourn.

Vote: this motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Stevens