

# ***TOWN OF LUNENBURG***

## ***Office of the Planning Board***

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Minutes  
January 8, 2019

Meeting Posted: Yes

Place: Ritter Memorial Building, 960 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA  
Time: 7:00 PM

Present: Matthew Allison, David Prokowiew, Tanner Cole, Paula Bertram, Adam R. Burney  
Absent: Kenneth Chenis

Also Present: Town Manager H. Lemieux and Select Board members J. Toale, D. McQuaid, P. Luck, K. Adams

Planning Board meeting called to order at 7:47 PM for continued discussion with the Board of Selectmen regarding Recreational Adult Use Marijuana questions for ballot presentation. P. Bertram commented on questions made during the public session of the Board of Selectmen meeting prior to the Planning Board calling its meeting to order. Citizens voted to legalize, but may not have been aware of the potential impact and the different uses, which are cultivation, manufacturing, testing, retail and transporting. If citizens don't want all five (5) uses, the Planning Board must take action as any prohibited use must pass by both ballot and town meeting vote. D. Prokowiew feels the citizens need to be provided the voting opportunity whether or not to permit, postpone or ban recreational marijuana. P. Luck opined that the Planning Board's job is to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana and to consider adopting new provisions of the zoning bylaw to address the impact of same. The Planning Board is not supposed to advocate for complete prohibition and is reaching outside the scope of its charter. She feels there is no indication that the Town wants to prohibit marijuana evidenced by, in her opinion, lack of attendance and public input during the public sessions held on recreational marijuana. K. Adams asserted that the citizens should have a vote. P. Bertram stressed that the Planning Board is not talking about outright prohibition, but looking for the Select Board to place five (5) ballot questions for the five (5) different uses. D. McQuaid wants to ensure the citizens understand what they are voting for, and not voting out of fear. P. Luck is unwilling to place the questions on the ballot. A. Burney noted the Planning Board has been working on this for the past eight (8) months, and there has not been strong citizen input either for or against. He went on to note that the 47% (against)/53% (for) vote is not a major swing either way. The Board is not advocating either for or against, but attempting to craft ballot questions that will allow the citizens to choose. J. Toale noted that it is the Planning Board's responsibility to regulate the use. A. Burney noted the Board always intended that there would be six warrant articles; five to cover each individual use and one for the total regulation for zoning. H. Lemieux emphasized that the Planning Board is coming before the Board of Selectmen looking for assistance and suggested the Board of Selectmen view it as such.

Pete Stella, 31 Chase Road- Stated he was one of the 53% that voted for legalization, but he does not want people coming to Lunenburg to buy it. He feels it needs to go to citizen vote.

P. Bertram noted that she also voted yes, but wants to understand the potential impacts. She did not realize that by voting to decriminalize, there would be a potential for it to be in Lunenburg.

John Baker, 53 Chase Road- Noted that the crime rate rose in Colorado once marijuana was legalized. This will further stretch the resources and manpower of the police department.

Paul Smith, 800 Chase Road- Feels it needs to go to vote.

Dr. Gary Moritz, Pastor, Twin City Baptist- Research has shown that ingesting marijuana affects the teenage brain. It has a drastic effect on families. He sees the effects daily and feels it should be banned.

M. Allison noted this is a zoning issue. It has been decriminalized by the Commonwealth and now the Town needs to decide how to regulate.

Board members reiterated that if these five (5) questions do not go on the ballot, all five (5) uses will automatically be allowed in Lunenburg.

Carl Luck, 50 Sunset Lane- He opined that none of the five (5) uses will significantly change the use in Lunenburg.

Ryan Sarenpa, 138 Beal Street- Wants it on the ballot.

**D. McQuaid made Motion to put the five questions requested by the Planning Board on the ballot, K. Adams Seconded, discussion: D. McQuaid went on to state that he feels the five (5) uses should be allowed in Town. P. Luck opined that being a marijuana-free community will not decrease the amount of marijuana smoked in Lunenburg. She also felt there hadn't been enough public input to vote tonight. J. Toale is concerned that a smaller amount of people will vote and it won't reflect a mandate on what the Town really wants. K. Adams, aye; P. Luck, nay; D. McQuaid, aye; J. Toale, aye. Vote passed 3-1.**

Adjourned 9:00 PM