

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
Office of the Planning Board

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Kenneth Chenis, Clerk
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Minutes
December 11, 2018

Meeting Posted: Yes
Place: Town Hall, 17 Main Street, Lunenburg, MA
Time: 7:00 PM

Present: Matthew Allison, David Prokowiew, Tanner Cole, Adam R. Burney
Absent: Kenneth Chenis, Paula Bertram
Also Present: Jamie Toale, Damon McQuaid, Katey Adams, Heather Lemieux

Joint meeting was held with the Board of Selectmen for discussion of the ballot questions for recreational adult use marijuana. The Planning Board wants to provide the citizens with the opportunity to prohibit some or all "marijuana establishments"; therefore, they are offering both prohibition and regulation to the citizens. Both the prohibition and the regulations will be presented at Town meeting. The Board wants five ballot questions placed that could prohibit each type of "marijuana establishment" that could be permitted. The five questions cover cultivators, manufacturers, testing facilities, retailers, and transporters.

D. McQuaid appreciated that the Board was offering the five questions, but he is against prohibition and is of the opinion that this will be financially beneficial to the community. J. Toale felt it was the Planning Board's responsibility to come up with the regulation and zoning for recreational marijuana. He was not comfortable with offering prohibition as he feels the majority of the residents want it allowed. Both D. Prokowiew and T. Cole asserted that Question 4 in 2016 did not accurately reflect the desires of the voters; it was focused on decriminalization. Having five questions grants the citizens the opportunity to decide what they want to allow.

K. Adams opined as Question 4 was in 2016, a new election should take place to gauge the current desires of the citizens. She supports prohibition and feels there could be other avenues for economic development. D. McQuaid remarked that users of marijuana will use it whether or not they obtain it legally. If through a retailer, one knows the product has been tested and the Town will also benefit financially.

D. McQuaid asked what the Planning Board would recommend to the citizens at Town meeting. T. Cole and D. Prokowiew responded that the Board would not recommend one way or another; it would be up to the voters. A. Burney reiterated that the Board is looking at six articles for town meeting; five for prohibition and one for regulation. He believes that the Board will recommend passing of all six articles and then have the ballot questions affirm or deny the first five prohibition articles. The ballot would be the determining factor as to whether each prohibition article passes. M. Allison stated that the Board is attempting to regulate what was legalized by the State. As Lunenburg was a "yes" community, both town meeting vote and a ballot initiative are required.

K. Adams was in agreement with the Planning Board and feels the choice should be given to the citizens. T. Cole felt the 2016 vote was significantly different from what the citizens would be voting on now. Question 4 does not accurately reflect what is happening in communities. D. McQuaid reiterated that he feels the Board should make a recommendation at town meeting. Board members stressed that their recommendation is for the voters to have the choice.

K. Adams made Motion to add the marijuana questions on the ballot as recommended by the Planning Board, J. Toale recommended that the vote be postponed. As Select Board member P. Luck was not in attendance, she had provided a statement which she wanted read into the record. J. Toale feels the discussion should continue. He went on to state that if he had to vote tonight, he would vote against. He recommended K. Adams not make her Motion tonight. K. Adams responded she made a Motion and wanted to keep it on the floor. **J. Toale asked if there was a Second; the Motion was not Seconded.**

J. Toale wants to continue the discussion when the full Select Board is present. The Planning Board is invited to that meeting.

Public Comment: Karin Menard, Parks Department- She is in agreement with the Planning Board. Even though she voted "yes" on Question 4, there were parts she supported and parts she didn't.

Discussion will continue to the January 8th Select Board meeting.

T. Cole made Motion to adjourn, D. Prokowiec Seconded, all aye.

Adjourned 8:00 PM

Document used at meeting:
Land Use Director Memorandum dtd 12.11.18, subject: Adult Use Marijuana Prohibition Ballot Questions