



Town of Southwick

Planning Board

MINUTES



MARIJUANA SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 19, 2017

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Marcus Phelps, Chair
Dr. Jerry Azia
Michelle Ackerman
Ryan Pease
Alan Slessler, Town Planner

ABSENT:

St. John Donnie McGrath
David Ricardi
Doug Moglin, Vice Chair

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Marijuana Subcommittee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Phelps. He stated that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. and Mrs. Hall said they are farmers at 18 Curtis Road on 89 acres of property. They are presently growing a small amount of hemp indoors. Mrs. Hall said they have been working with the Cannabis Commission and the US Department of Agriculture for over seven years. They have been growing hemp. She said once they get their licensing from the State they would like to go ahead and grow Industrial hemp. Mr. Phelps said this is a new use the Committee has not considered before. She said there will be an extensive grant from the Government after January for farmers to grow Industrial Hemp. It can be used for paper products, for control of water runoff, clothing, oil, medications and many other uses. She said three percent and below of THC is considered hemp and is not considered marijuana. Mr. Phelps suggested they come before the Planning Board to discuss this since there is no bylaw regarding the growing of Hemp.

Marijuana zoning Bylaw

Discussion

Mr. Azia said he felt the Committee should wait until the State has established regulations before the Committee should continue. Mr. Phelps explained that the State will be setting rules and regulations but not where the product can be placed in town. He said the committee is only establishing zones where each product can be grown, distributed and made with the exception of growing which the State has limited to Industrial zones.

The Committee continued to review the draft zoning bylaw. There is one on page of definitions and three pages of draft bylaw.

Section A - Mr. Phelps said he replaced the word undesirable with "unique."

Section B – Mr. Phelps said the hours of operation shall be set by the Planning Board. The specific time frame of operation was removed.

Section D – Regarding the Location all Marijuana is allowed by right in Industrial (I) zone and Industrial Restricted (IR) zone. He said this means there is no Special Permit required. Medical Marijuana is allowed in all Industrial Zones subject to site plan approval. Mr. Phelps said he thought the Committee did not want to allow dispensaries in the Business (B) zone. He said the actual growing, and processing is restricted to the Industrial zone. Mr. Slessler questioned leaving out Houses of worship. Mr. Phelps said the statement that no marijuana facilities would be allowed within 500 feet of a place where children congregate. Mr. Slessler shared the maps where marijuana would be restricted by the 500 foot separation.

E – Special permits and site plan approval are specific and cannot be transferred to another operator, site or parcel.

Mr. Phelps eliminated items the Committee suggested be eliminated.

G – Application requirements kept in five items such as protection of the property by fences, lighting and cameras. Ms. Ackerman said there will be many regulations from the State. Mr. Phelps said he would like to leave it in for now.

H. – Left in Marijuana Facilities requirements.

August 8, 2017

Minutes

A MOTION was made by Mr. Pease and seconded by Ms. Ackerman to accept the minutes with a few minor corrections errors for August 29, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 24, 2017

Being no further business to be brought before the Board, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Ryan, **SECONDED** by Ms. Ackerman to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Vote was unanimous.

Marcus Phelps _____
Chair

Doug Moglin _____
Vice Chair

Dr. Jerry Azia _____

David Ricardi _____

Michelle Ackerman _____

Ryan Pease _____

St. John Donnie McGrath _____

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Preston
Planning Board Administrative Assistant