

**RETAIL MARIJUANA COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM
Veterans Memorial Building Room 130
900 in Street, Millis, MA 02054**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Nicole Riley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present: James McCaffrey, Joyce Boiardi, David Schofield, James Borgman, Bryan Riley, Christine Maltinsky.

II. **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE TOWN**

Chair, Nicole Riley reviewed the RETAIL MARIJUANA POWER POINT PRESENTATION developed by Town Counsel. Chair Riley asked for input from town residents and informed the Committee of the Public Forum which is scheduled for February 7, 2018 @ 7:00pm. In attendance at the meeting were Department Head and School personnel to give their input and answer questions from the Committee. Some of the main topics reviewed were:

- Local Measures for Regulation & Prohibition
- Zoning Moratoria
- Prohibition Process
- Types of Prohibitions

III. **DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS**

a. Police Chief, Christopher Soffayer expressed concern with regards to public safety. He reviewed some of the issues that could arise from the retail sale of marijuana. One issue he discussed was “drug driving” in which officers cannot detect the influence of marijuana (especially when taken as an edible). One of his major concerns was the possibility of young children having access to edible. Chief Soffayer answered questions from the Committee with regards to the Department force possibly becoming more taxed and he stated that they would require additional training to educate police officers. His recommendation to the Committee as far as bylaws included location of establishments (as far away as possible from schools) and funds invested into public safety.

Sel. James McCaffrey noted the there are two local taxes for the sale of recreational marijuana:

1. 3% tax that the town would have to enact with the sale of recreational marijuana.
2. an additional 3% sales tax that the town can impose or seek charged to the recreational marijuana establishment.

b. Fire Chief, Rick Barrett spoke to the Committee about the implications on the EMS side of recreational marijuana: accidental over doses (especially with edibles), location of the establishment, spike in other drug use which has been studied and seen in other states.

c. MHS Principal Bob Mullaney & Resource Officer Dale Bickford. Principal Mullaney spoke to the board about keeping the schools drug free. He also expressed concern about increased access to students, edibles and the potency of them and not being able to identify packaging. Officer Bickford reiterated what the other department heads had mentioned regarding edibles in that if these drugs get into the hands of kids it would be

very difficult determine what a student might have ingested and how much of it. He also mentioned that the older students would sell to the younger ones.

Chair, Nicole Riley informed the Committee and attendees that Superintendent, Nancy Gustafson was not able to attend but did send an email and Ms. Riley read the email to attendees.

- d. School Committee Chair, Denise Gibbons also addressed the Committee with similar concerns as other department heads.
- e. Director of Public Health, John McVeigh discussed the effects of marijuana and the possible idea that it is a gateway drug. He also is concerned with regards to labeling and packaging especially edibles.
- f. Building Commissioner, Mike Giampietro who was also not able to attend, provided an email to the Committee with his opinion and what the involvement of the building department is.

A resident in attendance asked the Retail Marijuana Committee members to introduce themselves:

- Nicole Riley, Planning Board
- Joyce Boiardi, After Dark Producer
- David Schofield, 37 Tigonderoga Lane
- James Borgman, 25 Grove Street
- James McCaffrey, Chair Board of Selectmen
- Bryan Riley, 213 Village Street
- Christine Maltinsky, 431 Exchange Street

IV. DISCUSSION WITH ELLEN ROSENFELD, COMMCAN, INC.

CEO, Mark Rosenfield and Ellen Rosenfield were present at the meeting to address questions and concerns from the Committee and Residents with regards to both the Medical and potential Recreational Marijuana facility in the town. They answered questions about location, taxes (including revenue to the town), edibles (including packaging and delivery (including transporting to and through the town)).

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member, Bryan Riley requested that the Committee consider setting up a date and time for a meeting to be held at the Senior Center. Chair Nicole Riley said they would discuss and set something up.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dave Schofield motioned to approve the Retail Marijuana Committee minutes of January 11, 2018. It was seconded by Christine Maltinsky and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Maureen Canesi