

**HARWINTON PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022
TOWN HALL 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Roland Perreault, Paul Roche, Alan Colombie, Alternate Member Debra Freidus and Land Use Coordinator Polly Redmond

Absent: Chairman Michael Orefice and Lee Hall

1. OPEN MEETING – ESTABLISH QUORUM.

Acting Chair P. Roche called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members present are seated.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 4/13/2022

R. Perreault **motioned** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by A. Colombie. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGS 8-3A(B) ON ZONING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING ZONING REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC ACT 21-1, CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT USES. THE ZONING COMMISSION WILL BE DECIDING ON WHETHER TO PROHIBIT OR ALLOW SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS. THE ZONING COMMISSION SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL.

Topics of discussion included the 3% municipal tax that can be used for community reinvestments such as streetscape improvements, education programs, youth employment and training programs, services for individuals living in the municipality who have been released from DOC custody, probation, or parole, mental health or addiction services, youth service bureaus, municipal juvenile review boards and community civic engineering efforts. The Cannabis Act imposes a 3% municipal sales tax on the gross receipts from the sale of cannabis by a cannabis or hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator.

The law also allows municipalities, for the first 30 days after cannabis retailers or hybrid retailers open, to charge up to \$50,000 for any necessary and reasonable costs for public safety services related to the opening.

It is noted that outdoor public use of cannabis can be banned by Ordinance.

P. Roche states that the Zoning Commission can either ban cannabis establishments in any zone or allow by Special Permit where conditions can be set including location, hours of operation, and allowing in certain zones only. He favors this second option. D. Freidus questions banning or permitting the growing of cannabis, asking how Commissioners feel about this aspect of the law. P. Roche states that there are two things to be considered and included in the Planning Commission's report, retail and growing of cannabis, and states that the Zoning Commission can regulate where to cultivate as well, although growing in homes is unenforceable as the law allows cultivation of up to three mature and three immature cannabis plants to be grown in a primary residence.

A. Colombie states that he is not in favor of permitting cannabis establishments in town and believes it wouldn't be worth the funding the town may get. He also has concerns of permitting the growing of cannabis.

It is noted that under the law, a “cannabis establishment” is a *producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer (i.e., licensed to sell both recreational cannabis and medical marijuana), food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, delivery service, or transporter.*

R. Perreault **motioned** to continue discussion after the Planning Commission receives a draft from the Zoning Commission giving indication on whether they wish to prohibit or permit cannabis establishments.

LUC Redmond will look into what other towns are doing with regards to regulating cannabis establishments.

4. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ACT 21-29, SECTION 9 – REQUIRED TRAINING FOR MUNICIPAL LAND USE COMMISSIONERS.

No discussion.

5. OLD BUSINESS.

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS.

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

None.

8. ADJOURN.

R. Perreault **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by A. Colombie. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Redmond
Land Use Coordinator

