

1. Minutes for Adult Use Retail Cannabis Committee

Official Minutes: Business Meeting.
Adult Use Retail Cannabis Committee.

Date: December 3, 2018
Approved: Dec. 20, 2018

OFFICERS:

Chair: Brigham Pendleton
Vice Chair: Jessica O'Donoghue
Secretary: Hughes Pope

2. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM at the Eliot Town Hall
 - a. In attendance: Dana Lee, Brigham Pendleton, Jessica O'Donoghue, and Hughes Pope.
 - b. Absent: Fred Poisson, Alternate Member
 - c. Public attendees: Jim Tessier, Bob Pomerleau
3. Dana Lee, Town Manager, handed out Adult Use Retail Cannabis Committee. by-laws to all members present.
4. Do we want a Select Board Liason?
5. The Chair must be notified of a member's absence prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Officers was held. Brigham Pendleton was elected to position of Chair.
7. Jessica O'Donoghue was elected to position of Vice Chair.
8. Hughes Pope was elected to position of Secretary.
9. Public comment period was added for each next agenda for subjects not on this
10. meeting's agenda.
11. Chair - Review of Maine 17. Marijuana Statutes and Law.
12. Dana - Review of Maine Municipal Association New Marijuana Law Summation.
13. Discussion of removal from law of Social Clubs, etc.
14. Cheat sheet works well for above.
15. Dana - will print law out for each member to pick up at Town Hall.
16. Dana - town will print all necessary paperwork for members.
17. Dana - remember to get sworn in, Hughes, Brigham, and Fred
18. Brigham - mentioned how it works in Amsterdam
19. Dana - Town Opt-In definition.
20. Dana - discussion of Committee's goals; Committee should review and analyze
21. the law for deciding what Eliot should/can do.
22. Summer 2019 is earliest retail operation can begin according to law.
23. Discussion of law and how it came to be, i.e. LePage veto and override.
24. Hughes - brought up municipal financial benefits, if any, and discussion
25. followed about Action, ME and the two new Massachusetts store doing
26. 2.2 million dollars worth of business in one week.
27. What is incentive for the town of Eliot to opt-in?
28. Can the town impose it's own fees, laws, financial rules?
29. Bob Pomerleau talked about his report about potential revenue. He mentioned
30. the new bill, currently in the legislature, that would allow towns to impose a
31. local sales tax. If the town could impose a 3% to 5% Sales Tax on Retail Cannabis it would certainly add to the town's pocketbook.

32. Massachusetts currently allows a 25% sales tax on retail weed.
33. Dana - the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation formed a new 501(c)(3) to allow for grants.
34. Is this something we should consider?
35. Jess - brought up the costs involved with forming a non-profit. The benefit
36. certainly outweighs the cost of between \$1000 - \$1500 to form the 501(c)(3).
37. More discussion followed on numbers of directors needed to achieve non-profit
38. status. It was decided this might be a viable option.
39. More conversation followed between all members present of ways the Town of
40. Eliot could use extra money. For instance, bussing of Senior citizens, a new
41. playground, school funding to cut down on property taxes, etcetera.
42. Hughes - Could there be an agreement between the town of Eliot and any retail
43. Cannabis company to pay/award a grant annually. Couldn't be a 'host' agreement.
44. Jess - two thousand people waited in line to get in to the new Retail Cannabis
45. store in North Hampton, MA.
46. Hughes - talked about secondary hiring that will occur if the town allows a retail
47. recreational use store, i.e. plumbers, electricians, other contractors, retail
48. staffing, etcetera.
49. Dana - the committee should track the pros and cons of retail recreational
50. cannabis use so it's handy.
51. Dana - talked about the definition of 'impact fees' and how Auburn did
52. something called 'negotiated exactions' which is basically bribery
53. and was found to be illegal so Auburn had to stop doing it
54. Dana - unless the owner of a retail store offers money to the town, the town cannot demand
55. it in the form of fees or otherwise. What is the financial benefit
56. for our town? Do we want to allow this if there is no monetary reason?
57. Jess - likes the idea of a 501(c)(3) and grants to the town. Only town could
58. decide how to spend the money. It can't be dictated by owner of retail stores.
59. More discussion ensued about the November Referendum vote which was 1742
60. Yes votes, 1663 No votes, and 42 (?) Unsures. Dana was surprised it turned out
61. to be a positive non-binding referendum vote, albeit a very close one. More
62. discussion followed between all members about the educating that needs to
63. happen for residents, and how the committee would go about doing that prior
64. to an actual public hearing. We should use all avenues available to us to get the
65. word out, town website, social media, direct mail?, online survey.
66. Dana - think about agenda for next meeting and who should be invited to it, i.e.
67. fire chief, police chief, school officials, religious officials.
68. Dana - do homework: ordinances from other towns/cities, which have opted-in
69. and why, how are their ordinances written? There is no need to re-write if there
70. are good ones available.
71. Does the committee want Dana to print the ordinances? Let's look at digitally
72. first before wasting paper/trees.
73. Hughes - asked Dana to look into the town of Unity and what it is doing as far as retail
- recreational goes. They have had a medical marijuana store for 5 years.
74. Brigham - has a neighbor who has a sister who works in some capacity for a

75. town in Massachusetts that recently opened a store.
76. He will look into asking her to speak to us about the details
77. South Berwick recently had a meeting about retail recreational marijuana. We
78. should look at video of that meeting because we will be hearing the same things
79. down the road here.
80. Hughes - mentioned the Bernstein/Shore memo and Dana said he would print it.
81. Bob Pomerleau suggested we look into South Poland because "they do
82. everything well". Their report was very detailed but we will need to "dumb it
83. down" due to the population difference between S. Poland (approx 60k pop.) and Eliot (6200 pop.
84. Dana - submitted a handout from Doug Greene, Eliot Town Planner, regarding
85. the history of legal Marijuana in the state of Maine. It started in 1913. It
86. included the passing of emergency legislation replacing the original citizen's
87. initiative, now known as LD 1719, allowing town's to opt-in and promoting the
88. use of just one set of laws for both retail and medical marijuana stores which
89. will ease zoning rules and allow for more municipal controls.
90. Jess - asked Dana to explain Home Rule Authority
91. Bringham - asked about our timeline and Dana said that should be on our next
92. agenda.
93. Discussion followed about agenda for next meeting