

Buckland Planning Board
Public Meeting
April 4, 2018 7:35 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall

8/2/18

CE5

JG

AD

Agenda:

The Planning Board will conduct a Public Meeting to solicit input from residents as the Planning Board contemplates changes to the Zoning Bylaws related to recreational marijuana establishments in town.

Attendees:

See attached list.

Attachments:

List of attendees.

Planning for Marijuana Facilities in Buckland, April 4, 2018

Meeting:

1. John Gould opened meeting at 7:35 p.m.
2. John Gould began meeting by reading from the handout *Planning for Marijuana Facilities in Buckland* which gave the 2016 ballot statistics for legalizing recreational marijuana for both Massachusetts and the town of Buckland, and an explanation of each of the types of facilities allowed under the new regulations. He further explained before opening the meeting for discussion, that although Buckland had in 2016 voted to legalize recreational marijuana, that vote did not stipulate “how”. It was for that purpose, the “how”, that this meeting was to solicit input from residents.
 1. John Gould then invited input/discussion. The first comment from the floor was for whatever the state allows, Buckland should allow, no further regulations necessary. John stated that the planning Board’s intentions were not to obstruct the laws.
 2. An attendee spoke in favor of cultivation, seeing it as a profitable commodity for this rural area, and also supporting the idea of Marijuana Retailers. Discussion followed regarding these two types of facilities (Marijuana Cultivator and Marijuana Retailer) and the fact that marijuana cultivation is not agriculture.
 3. A resident who introduced herself as not a proponent of marijuana, stating reasons to support her position, asked what the process was among town boards to collaborate in the discussion and implementation of the marijuana bylaws for Buckland. Was this an individual (per board) or joint venture? John Gould answered that the Planning Board, like many area towns, has been receiving guidance from FRCOG regarding policy, outreach, etc. Marti Taft-Ferguson, member of the BOH, spoke of the December 5, 2017 joint meeting of the Planning Board and Board of Health, and

said while combined meetings are good in theory, they are difficult in reality because of a “whose meeting is it” sense.

4. Discussion continued on what types of facilities residents best felt suited Buckland based on what fit the landscape and needs of the town. Revenue is a major concern, which facilities best utilize the natural resources of the town without a burden to its infrastructure, and realistically how many can/will Buckland have. While most are hopeful that recreational marijuana will provide much needed revenue, the point was made that casinos, too, have been known to make promises on which they do not deliver, and it is incumbent upon the community to consider all aspects.
 5. After a discussion of buffer zones, the suggestion was made that perhaps we should keep our options more open and consider facilities that we previously thought were more appropriate for larger towns or more urban areas, i.e. *Independent Testing Laboratory* or *Research Facility*. It was noted that these facilities, unlike retailers, would not be as obvious to, or apt to be on the path of, children. In addition to schools, it was also suggested buffer zones be extended to include any drug treatment facility.
 6. A question was raised comparing medical to recreational marijuana. Clarissa Spawn of the Planning Board responded, explaining THC vs CBD content, the types of facilities, etc.
 7. It was suggested we look at current bylaws, types of facilities allowed, and see “what fits” and work from there. Another suggested we allow businesses that require less “bylaw infringement.” John Gould stated his reason for a moratorium which is “to take a responsible approach to a complicated issue.”
3. John Gould adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.