

**Cannabis Working Group**

**Meeting of Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**Bourne High School – Professional Library**

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Attendees: Glenn Cannon, Jennifer Copeland, William Grant, Dominique Rapoza, Rob Wheeler, Richard Conron, and George Slade (ex officio)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Dominique Rapoza

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, second by Mr. Grant to accept meeting minutes of May 2, 2018, by unanimous vote 5-0; and minutes of May 16, 2018, accepted by a 4-0 vote with 1 abstention (Conron).

Public comment –

- Questions from Don Hayward regarding a list of members and voting preference of members.
- Question from person who did not identify himself, asked if the working group members are aware of a town bylaw regarding marijuana.
- George Seaver cited a list of public officials from the general area, who were against the legalization of marijuana. He asked if the school department is represented in the working group.
- Kathleen Christadoro asked questions of Ms. Copeland about the number of cannabis establishments that may be allowable in the town of Bourne and the revenue statistics from the state of Colorado versus Massachusetts.

Mr. Grant, Mr. Slade and Mr. Cannon voiced concern that the 1) questions during “public comment” were prompting responses, and 2) that the nature of questions and comments were out of order.

Discussion ensued regarding the mission statement of the working group. Mr. Slade had printed the Select Board’s charge as well as Mr. Conron’s mission statement drafts. Mr. Conron and Mr. Grant discussed the planning board’s progress. Mr. Conron cited concerns about odor, wastewater, security and the host community agreement progress. After deciding that the scope of what the working group can be expected to do, it was moved by Mr. Grant to accept the Selectmen’s “deliverables” for fall town meeting to working as the group’s mission, second by Mr. Conron. Unanimously accepted, 5-0.

Prospect of a site visit of an existing cannabis facility was discussed. Mr. Cannon stated that coordinating a visit for earlier on the day of May 16<sup>th</sup> would have been too tight a time frame to comply with advance notice requirement of open meeting law. Ms. Copeland and Mr. Cannon mentioned that the locations in Plymouth, Fairhaven and Milford, are in various states of

operation and that they seemed to be accommodating the request for a visit. It was thought that a visit on the morning of the next meeting would be good. Mr. Cannon will try to line up a visit, tentatively set for June 6th.

The host community agreement (HCA) was discussed. It was recommended that the working group not become involved with strategic preferences as it applied to the actual draft document. Mr. Conron asked when the HCA would be ready. Mr. Grant, Ms. Rapoza, Ms. Copeland and Mr. Wheeler each see the advantage of having the HCA prior to the bylaw work. Mr. Grant stated that once the draft is ready, it will need to be reconciled with the bylaw. Mr. Slade stated that the Select Board would be addressing the HCA on the first meeting date in June. Mr. Grant commented that "all" cannabis -related facilities required its own HCA. Therefore the working group should continue its work whether or not the current proposed HCA is signed. It was agreed that more discussion on the HCA should not take place until the Select Board has sufficient information to share on the document. While no date was determined, it is felt that it is on a fast track.

By arranging the site visit, the working group could progress toward its mission goal.

Citizen involvement was discussed earlier to everyone's satisfaction.

Use of town staff, namely the building inspector, health inspector and the police chief, was discussed. It was determined that they should be asked to come only to meetings in which the working group has specific questions to their profession. Mr. Slade further emphasized that they should be only used as needed. Mr. Grant stated that having Ms. Copeland at meetings is key in that her knowledge of crafting and working with bylaws is particularly important. Mr. Cannon thought that the site visit may prompt questions from the above-mentioned staff and that the next scheduled meeting (following the site visit) may provide that opportunity. Site visit and working group meeting may occur on the same day, visit around 9 a.m., and meeting at 7 p.m.

New business – Mr. Conron still concerned about time line of getting a draft bylaw ready. Mr. Grant and Ms. Copeland responded that bylaw would reflect working group's input and that the site visit should generate good information. Mr. Grant is looking forward to town counsel's input on the HCA.

Ms. Rapoza moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Grant. Unanimous approval at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by George Slade

Approved – 6.5.18