

Newport Selectboard and Planning Board
Special Meeting & Public Hearing
Marijuana Establishments Ordinance
August 4, 2021 @6:00 pm
Newport Public Safety Building

Present: (Selectboard)-D. Berry, B. Clarke, G. Demos, R. Davis (Not Present: K. Rush)

(Planning Board)-K. Carsley, F. Harding, D. Seamans, D. Ferrell, G. Phelps

Also present:

Jim Ricker / Town Manager

Al Tempesta / CEO

Estimated audience: 45

1. Call to order

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

Audience has concerns about how the public can interact with the public hearing. The Boards can add or subtract recommendations to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be online, and the public can add their own comments and opinions. During this public access there will be a 2-minute limit per person.

Collin Popper the owner of Greenbear 420 spoke about his business and how he helps a lot of people. Kenneth Fredette attorney representing Greenbear spoke about the new and old Maine regulations and questioned setback language and how it may be too restrictive in some sections. This topic will be discussed in more depth in the following meetings.

Two members of the audience addressed the smell from the Golf Course Road due to the apparent lack of a filtration system. The smell in the area will not allow the residents to open their windows due to smell.

Several persons in the audience identified themselves as customers of Mr. Popper and praised Mr. Popper for all he does for his patrons.

3. New Business

a. Public Hearing Re: **Proposed Town of Newport Marijuana Establishments Ordinance**

A draft of the ordinance prepared by Rudman & Winchell was presented to each Board member present. The last page amended the usage in certain areas and their setbacks

in the community. The boards were here to discuss the ordinance as written. The map was up to show that Moosehead Trail (Route 7) was the commercial zone (not village) where the business could be located. A lottery system could be used due to the fact that so many businesses would like to enter Newport. The lottery system would limit the number of recreational/medical stores as suggested in the proposed ordinance.

There was much discussion regarding this with some individuals wondering if existing sales would be given preference. The manager explained there is only one legally licensed premise in Newport and no actions taken here tonight or later will affect that license.

There was a recommendation from Planning board member George Phelps that there be another meeting with the Planning Board only. Fellow board members agreed and set a date for August 25th, 2021, at 6 pm. It was explained to those in attendance this would be a public meeting however comments will only be accepted for a short time, with the board going into their workshop session.

The Selectboard and Planning Board will have a joint meeting / Public Hearing on this matter September 15th, 2021, at 6 pm. The meeting will be advertised in the Rolling Thunder and posted around Town.

It is believed that there will be a special Town Meeting held in October as there exists other warrant articles to be discussed in conjunction with a Marijuana ordinance.

4. Adjourn

Motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm by D. Seaman, seconded by G. Phelps, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Deanna M. Thompson
Treasurer