

Newport Planning Board  
Planning Board Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Present: J. Ricker

Planning Board: K. Carsley, F. Harding, D. Ferrell, G. Phelps, R. Peck

Attendees: Owners of Gram's Five and Dime Marijuana Establishment-Christina Avery & David Avery, Landlord-Michael Smith with Tammy Smith. Newport Resident: Susan Kasprzak

1. Call to Order

K. Carsley called meeting to order at 6:00pm.

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access -None-

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 01-25-23

Motion to approve minutes by R. Peck, seconded by D. Ferrell, all in favor, motion carried.

4. New Business

a. Public Hearing: re: Gram's Place LLC Recreational Cannabis Store located at 36 Moosehead Trail, Newport, ME  
Public hearing opened by K. Carsley at 6:05pm. Floor was given to the owners of Gram's Place LLC.

Christina and David Avery both spoke to how their goal is to run another respectable establishment like their current Detroit location. They are a family run establishment who maintains the highest integrity. They value giving back to the community and offer high quality product and education to the public.

Susan Kasprzak voiced concerns as to why Newport has another Cannabis business in town. She feels it does not represent the values of the town and will not be beneficial. She has traveled to surrounding towns and seen very few Cannabis stores, but it seems Newport has embraced the industry and is wondering why.

The Planning Board addressed Susan by stating the ordinance was passed after 3 public hearings and a town meeting with a majority town vote. There was discussion about limiting the number of cannabis businesses in Newport but they noted how this would create legal challenges including possibilities for discrimination.

Mr. Ricker confirmed that establishment passed all inspections, security standards and all other criteria has been met according to the ordinance.

Motion made by F. Harding to approve and sign permit, seconded by D. Ferrell, all in favor, motion carried. The Planning Board signed and approved permit.

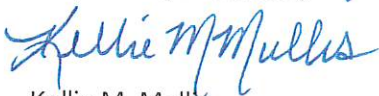
Public Hearing Closed at 6:22pm

Next Meeting March 22, 2023

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by G. Phelps, seconded by R. Peck, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis  
Municipal Clerk