

Parsonsfield Planning Board
634 North Rd Parsonsfield, ME
Tuesday, February 4th, 2020
Minutes

Public Hearing

In Attendance: Rick Sullivan (Chair), Nate Stacey (Vice Chair), Brendan Adelman, Clifford Krolick (Alternate), Thelma Lavoie

Absent: Gerard Clifford (Alternate), Andy Yale

Also, In Attendance: Lindsay Gagne, Harvey Macomber, Tiffany Brendt, Michael Couture, Sarah Ruby, Edward Griggs, Gary Taylor, Linda Marsh, Michael Shaw, Chris Gadomski, Marlee Walker, Jen Lewis, Trevor Sanborn(Of Limerick), Hillary Lister(Of Augusta).

Mr. Sullivan Opens the public hearing at 6:59pm. He explains this is for a draft warrant article for a Recreational Marijuana Facilities “Opt in”.

Public Member Asks what the warrant article is opting into more specifically

Mr. Stacey States this would be opting into allowing facilities for cultivation, testing, manufacturing or retail sales for recreational facilities. If voted no, it will not change the adult use laws for home cultivation. If voted yes, then it would allow for these types of facilities to operate within the town, however, the moratorium would prohibit these types of facilities temporarily, giving the board some time to then draft zoning ordinances.

Mr. Sullivan States it is not required to have a vote to opt in, but by holding a vote will give the town the choice.

Public Member Asks if the this would have any effect on caregivers.

Mr. Adelman States this is only for recreational marijuana businesses and will not have any effect on the medical caregiver side or the personal growing for adult use.

Public Member Asks if this were voted yes, what would be addressed for outdoor cultivation of marijuana

Mr. Sullivan States during the moratorium, the board would begin the process of crafting zoning ordinances for recreational facilities. The board will vote at their next monthly meeting to finalize the draft warrant article and then pass it to the select board to coordinate a special town meeting for a vote on the warrant article.

Ms. Brendt clarifies the vote would allow the board to start the process of amending the zoning ordinance and so by a no vote, there would be no further work on it, but a yes vote would allow the board to begin crafting ordinances.

Mr. Stacey Explains if voted yes to opt in with a moratorium and the board crafts the zoning ordinances, those will have to be voted on as well. If the zoning ordinances don’t pass, then by default the facilities will be allowed and regulated only by state law.

Mr. Krolick States there will be multiple workshops and a public hearing if the board were to amend the zoning ordinances.

Ms. Gagne Explains the moratorium can be 180 days and, if needed, the select board can extend it with good cause.

Public Member Asks if the moratorium is necessary

Mr. Stacey States if we opt in without a moratorium, it would allow the facilities by state law with no zoning. If we later craft an ordinance, then anything that comes before an ordinance is enacted, it would be grandfathered in.

Mr. Sullivan Asks if there are any other questions or comments. There are none, the public hearing closes at 7:15pm.

Draft completed by: Lindsay Gagne

Approved by board, Date: _____

Planning Board Chair or acting Chair
Name & Signature

DRAFT WARRANT ARTICLE

Town of Parsonsfield Adult Use Marijuana Facilities Opt In

Municipal authorization needed. 28-B M.R.S § 402(1)(A) Authorize adult use cultivation facility (including nurseries), retail stores, products manufacturing facilities, and testing facilities that are not operating on the effective date of this section to operate in the municipality unless the municipal legislative body, as defined in Title 30- A, section 2001, subsection 9, has voted to adopt or amend an ordinance or approve a warrant article allowing adult use marijuana cultivation facilities (including nurseries), retail stores, products manufacturing facilities, and testing facilities as applicable, to operate within the municipality.

Article 1.

Shall the town vote to authorize within the municipality the operation of adult use marijuana facilities, with a moratorium pursuant to Title 30-A M.R.S §4356 to allow the town to create and approve zoning ordinances?

****If passed authorization to operate an adult use marijuana facility will be effective after the town holds a vote to approve zoning ordinances.****

A **YES** vote will allow adult use marijuana facilities to operate within the municipality after the effective date at which the town holds a vote to approve zoning ordinances.

A **NO** vote will not allow adult use marijuana facilities to operate within the municipality.