

Conway Planning Board Minutes Thursday, October 5, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Attending: Chair Mary McClintock , Vice Chair Joe Strzegowski, Interim Clerk Sue McFarland, Beth Girshman
Absent: Andy Jaffe

Guests: See attached

Public Hearing on Proposed Temporary Moratorium on Commercial Recreational Marijuana Establishments.

- 1) Public hearing opened 7:05 pm by Chair

Chair McClintock introduced the proposed moratorium citing that this falls under a zoning bylaw and so necessitates at public hearing. She stressed that the moratorium was only in regards to commercial establishments. A moratorium is recommended because the timeline for state regulations concerning commercial marijuana laws may not allow the town enough time to consider any potential additions to its own bylaws before licensing opens on July 1, 2018. There was discussion of potential revenue to the town, which would include 3% of local sales tax collected and up to 3% of gross revenue of the commercial business. Roy Cohen raised concerns that the moratorium might appear to make Conway hostile to the marijuana business and suggest the article be worded in a more welcoming way. There was also concern about applying the bylaws equitably Vis à-vis other businesses. Because the town of Conway has very lax bylaws regarding businesses nothing the town currently has in the bylaws would address commercial marijuana establishments regarding location, parking, signage, hours of operation etc. There was discussion that voting down the moratorium may accelerate any potential applications and if approved these establishments would be grandfathered against any future perhaps more restrictive bylaws. A question arose if we should hold a pre town meeting for the Oct. 30 special town meeting. It was determined that there was not enough time. It was brought up that if a moratorium was voted in and Conway then found the state regulations to be adequate, the moratorium could be lifted at annual town meeting. Maintaining local control is the point of the moratorium. For example marijuana edibles are not considered consumables so the Board of Health has no authority to inspect kitchens where marijuana edibles are prepared. The moratorium would allow time for Conway to address such issues if warranted. 8:25 Motion to close public hearing- Joe S. Second- Mary M. All in favor.

8:30 Opened regular Planning Board Meeting

- 2) Review and Approve Minutes of September 21, 2017

Motion to approve minutes as presented-Joe S. Second-Beth G. All in favor.

- 3) Discuss comments from Public Hearing and prepare for Oct. 30 Town Meeting

Discussion of whether there was any change to the article as presented. Motion to recommend the article as presented-Mary M. Second-Sue M. Roll call vote: Beth G.-yes. Sue M.-yes. Joe S.-yes. Mary M.-yes. Vote was 4-0-0. Joe will send vote to Tom Hutchenson, Town Administrator. The Board discussed plans to submit an article to rescind the moratorium at the May 2018 Town Meeting if state regulations

- 4) Report of all Committee Meeting on Oct. 2 attended by Chair Mary M & Vice Chair Joe S.

No other committee seems to be complaining about a lack of members though both the Finance Committee and Conservation Committee are now operating with reduced numbers for their respective boards. The Energy Committee is still working on a solar array at the school property. The marijuana regulations were a big topic of conversation at the all committee meeting.

5) Resident and Business Survey: Next Steps , Survey Deadline is Oct. 18

So far, there have been 38 responses to the business survey.

6) Next Schedule Meetings: October 19 and November 2.

7) Mail./ Email-none

8) Old Business-none

9) New Business- none

Meeting adjourned 9:05. Motion to adjourn-Joe S. Second-Beth G. All in favor