

City of Gardiner
Recreational Marijuana Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 6pm

1. Meeting called to order at 6pm by Chair Terry Berry.

2. Members Present: Terry Berry, Curtis Ayotte, Karen Tucker, Jaime Schorr, John Shaw, Jack McMillin, Louis Sigel, Interim City Manager Anne Davis, CEO Barbara Skelton and Executive Assistant Robin Plourde.

3. Terry: Testing labs appear to be coming off the State agenda. We could take a vote on it.

Anne: You have time to talk about lab testing, at another meeting you can discuss testing labs and social clubs.

Terry: It's been a long road of discovery; we can't just not talk about it or not give our thoughts to council.

Karen: Will regulations go to council?

Terry: Yes, our thoughts on educating youth, effects on youth, signage

4. Vote to approve minutes from 8/1/17 with the addition from Karen Tucker: Karen suggested an educational component be added to final draft of regulations going to the City Council. All members approved. Motion made by Karen to approve with addition, second by Louis. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Update on state rules for recreational marijuana.

Terry – 1. The state may not hit the Feb. 1, 2018 deadline.

2. Social Clubs may be dropped from regulations.

Barbara Skelton: The state has indicated they may raise the tax from 20 or 25%

Curtis Ayotte: The state may be having a work session at the end of October.

6. Discussion of production/cultivation of marijuana in Gardiner.

Anne: Production would also mean edibles- do we want to regulate where this is done in town?

Terry: Is there a difference between inside and outside facilities?

Barb: Yes, an inside structure would be needed for winter months.

John Shaw: Is there a limit on the number of plants you can have according to the amount of land you have?

Barb: Yes, if you get too specific, it's getting in to Ordinance Review and Planning Board regulations.

Terry: Do we want to set a limit?

John Shaw: My concern is with unregulated growth.

Anne: People are growing medical marijuana

Barb: Agriculture and manufacturing also need to be included.

Terry: Do we want to allow outdoor growing?

Curtis: There's a very big difference between growing inside and outside.

Louis: Outdoor growing is not allowed to be visible to the public

Terry: Do it matter if it's being grown for someone else?

Louis: Seems like a question for Ordinance Review

Terry: Would we allow any type of production?

Anne: Would there be a limit on licenses?

Karen: Limiting is a good thing, manufacturing is much more intense, it's looked at differently and both should have limits.

Louis: I'm totally opposed to limiting numbers, limiting is not business friendly.

John: Cities do regulate types of businesses.

Curtis: Gardiner has had a massive explosion of businesses opening up. I'm not supportive of limiting. If we follow zoning that we already have in place, we will be ok.

Terry: So above and beyond personal use they will have to go before Ordinance Review and Planning Board Committees.

Barb: Change starts at the Council level then goes back to the Ordinance Review Committee for review. They research: impact on neighborhoods, how it fits into the quality of life. Once they agree then it goes before the Planning Board. Then there is a public hearing, then they make a recommendation to City Council. City Council holds 2 public readings, then it goes into Ordinance form.

Terry: So there is fine tuning done- it gets 2 sets of eyes, the Ordinance Review and Planning Board.

Terry: Are we at the point of making a recommendation to City Council of the direction we are going in?

Curtis: We are too far advanced, there is zoning for agriculture in Gardiner.

Curtis: Makes a motion that the task force send to Council: That all manufacturing and or agriculture of marijuana is to take place in the appropriate zoning areas that are determined by the Ordinance Review and Planning Board. Seconded by Louis, motion passed with a 4-2 vote.

8. None

9. New Business:

Anne: At the next meeting the committee can discuss testing labs and social clubs.

Terry: How are we going to present to Council?

10. Next meeting: October 3

Motion to adjourn made by Terry Berry, seconded by Curtis Ayotte.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Submitted by Robin Plourde