

City of Gardiner
Recreational Marijuana Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order in Council Chambers. Chair Terry Berry opened meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. Introductions: Members present: John Shaw (proponent), Karen Tucker(opponent), Louis Sigel (proponent), Jack McMillian (opponent), Interim City Manager, Anne Davis, Police Chief Jim Toman, CEO Barbara Skelton and Executive Assistant Robin Plourde. Absent: Curtis Ayotte (proponent) and Jaime Schorr (opponent).
3. Vote to approve minutes from 4/4/17. Motion made to approve made by Louis Sigel with the correction of the spelling of Crohn's used in the public comment by Ben Newell. Second by John Shaw. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Public Workshops: Social Clubs. Chair Berry: didn't find any experts on Social Clubs. Louis Sigel: The question of Social Clubs can be abandoned. It's not a relevant topic, there's not a lot of engagement in town.

Holly Kiidli from Healthy Communities in Gardiner is in the audience and would like to speak;

Healthy Communities has 8 years of data. There has been a dramatic decrease in beliefs and attitudes in marijuana. Mostly in the middle schools.

When you consider Social Clubs, be mindful of marketing and locations. They should not be seen from schools. At the State House they are still trying to figure out the process. Everything is up in the air and they are not yet sure who is regulating. Towns don't have much of a say right now. Towns don't have much of a say right now, would be glad to come back when laws are established.

The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey shows the perception of harm IS LOW and use numbers are NOT low. We have seen use DECREASES in alcohol. prescription drugs and tobacco, while marijuana use stays consistent. This shows that the substance misuse messages are being heard, and making a difference in all substances except marijuana.

John Shaw: How many are using?

Holly: I will need to get a release form from the superintendent to bring numbers back to the meeting.

John Shaw: it would be helpful to have the information.

Chair Berry: What kind of time frame do you need to come back?

Holly: By the end of the year we would have complete numbers, it depends on the depth that you want.

John Shaw: just a rough estimate.

Jack McMillian: Social clubs- advertising- there's no data showing that it's bad for you. Do you have a sense of how medical marijuana is increasing?

John Shaw: People have been smoking it for a long time, you don't see people getting sick from it.

Chair Berry: How are we going to control it?

Karen Tucker: It is legal, what do we want to do for our city? If we want to guard the youth of Gardiner, they are seeing it as fun.

Louis Sigel: Keep in mind that we don't have a wall around Gardiner.

Holly: We all know people that use marijuana, some to escape from their home situation as a way of coping. Another data point of note is that 50% of our kids in Kennebec County feel like they don't matter.

Holly: The harm biologically- we are talking about young brains that are still developing.

Chair Berry: Where do we want to go with Social Clubs?

John Shaw: I'm interested in more research. Amsterdam clubs they have coffee, food, marijuana, coffee shop type places. Different tone than a bar. If other cities like us are not moving on this, it could be our niche' for Gardiner.

Louis Sigel: Would social clubs be any different than smokeless tobacco?

Jack McMillian: What about the odor- How will they control it?

Louis Sigel: Exhaust fans

Police Chief, Jim Toman: Coffee Clubs, Bistros. We are so far ahead of the State.

CEO, Barb Skelton: Agree with the Chief regarding the social clubs and too much uncertainty.

Chair Berry: Legally can we go monthly without breaking the laws?

CEO Barb Skelton: Meeting without direction is hard.

Karen Tucker: The question is, it is legal, what do we want to do in Gardiner, I do not care what other towns decide, I want to send a message to youth, through the policies we put in place to protect them from misuse, that we CARE about our kids, and that they do matter to us.

Interim City Manager Anne Davis: You should finish up the cycle on May 2nd with Agriculture and reschedule meetings after that.

Louis Sigel: Barbara can you invite 3 facilities?

CEO Barb Skelton: yes.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by John Shaw, second by Jack McMillian . Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adjourned