



## **ESSEX PLANNING & ZONING CANNABIS SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Conference**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

In attendance at the meeting held via zoom were Carey Duques, Land Use Official, Larry Shipman PZC Attorney, Jane Siris, and David Rosengren. Meeting began at 9:14 am.

#### **1. Review of regulations as passed by other towns in CT**

C. Duques began by discussing what other towns in CT of similar size to Essex are doing in regards to recreational cannabis. Brooklyn is working towards passing a regulation for recreational cannabis. East Haddam has held a public meeting to understand where people stand on the issue and may be holding a vote via referendum in the near future. Deep River, Old Saybrook, and Chester have a moratorium in place currently. As things change and time goes on C. Duques will update the list and provide additional information as to if and how towns are regulating recreational cannabis.

J Siris shared information she obtained from talking with a town official from Northampton, Massachusetts and Vermont.

L Shipman mentioned possible restrictions that could be placed on recreational cannabis businesses including size of the facility. He reminded the group that regulations cannot restrict who holds the license, as far as local businesspeople versus those from out of town. L Shipman reviewed notes from prior meetings confirming that the group had discussed not allowing cultivation in town when drafting a proposed regulation. The group agreed.

D Rosengren asked for clarification on who the regulations would be impacting businesses but not individual rights.

L Shipman reviewed the different kinds of licenses including adult recreational and hybrid retailer which would require a licensed pharmacist.

C Duques discussed a survey that Deep River posted on their website asking for feedback on which types of cannabis services should be prohibited, allowed with restrictions, or allowed in full. One of those licenses was transportation/delivery of cannabis.

D Rosengren discussed concerns about deliveries for recreational possibly allowing deliveries for medical cannabis only.

L Shipman will research the license for deliveries. He will also share his working draft of a regulation for recreational cannabis based on the discussions to date.

D Rosengren discussed regulations regarding advertising, stating that it is important that we understand if the statute regulates advertising on billboards. There was conversation about the two billboards in or on the boarder of Essex, both on Rt 154, one near Deep River and one near the Saybrook line. C Duques will research their location and how they are regulated. She believes they are pre-existing non-conforming.

D Rosengren summarized that the group was comfortable with recreational cannabis possibly being located in a commercial area but not on Main Street.

L Shipman has drafted a regulation that will require a Special Exception permit (public hearing), have standards looking at traffic, signage, hours of operation, etc.

J Siris mentioned that once there is a public hearing on a proposed regulation there may be interest from residents which could result in a referendum if there were strong feelings one way or the other.

**2. Minutes**

There was no opposition or changes to the minutes from the December 20, 2021 or January 10, 2022 meetings.

**3. Next steps for Essex**

The group will meet again on March 8, 2022 at 10 am via zoom.

**Meeting ended at 10:00am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carey Duques  
Land Use Official  
Town of Essex