



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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

**9:30 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 9:37 am.

**1. Minutes**

There was no opposition or changes to the minutes from the February 8, 2022 meeting.

**2. Recap and Review of regulations as passed by other towns in CT**

C. Duques provided an overview of what was discussed at the last meeting and provided an update of what towns in CT of similar size to Essex are doing in regards to recreational cannabis. Many towns have implemented a moratorium and are considering how to proceed. Brooklyn has adopted a regulation for recreational cannabis. East Haddam is expected to hold a referendum in the near future to ask the residents if recreational sale of cannabis should be allowed.

L. Shipman drafted a regulation that was distributed to the Committee.

J. Siris discussed options for polling residents of Essex through a survey or referendum and suggests that the subcommittee get the opinion from the public.

D Rosengren asked about timing of having a referendum to ensure that the PZC acts in the appropriate amount of time. Questioned if moratorium could be extended beyond the one year implemented if needed.

L. Shipman believes the moratorium could be extended beyond the 1-year time frame, which expires December 31, 2022. L. Shipman will research who decides if the question of permitting the sale of recreational cannabis can go to a referendum.

D Rosengren suggests drafting a regulation that can be taken to a public hearing.

J. Lovelace asked if sale of cannabis falls under the category of adult entertainment.

L Shipman didn't feel recreational cannabis would be considered adult entertainment the way the state is categorizing it. The legislation is giving the town the ability to ban sale of recreational cannabis.

J Lovelace expressed that the more he has thought about allowing the sale of recreational cannabis he is against it. Only 18 states have allowed it. Other towns in CT have banned it and Essex should closely look at the adverse impact it would have on the town. There are other towns that are going to allow for the sale of cannabis and people can go there to purchase the product.

J Siris feels that a survey would provide the opportunity for the public to express their views.

D Rosengren in general supports the sale of recreational cannabis. Is in favor of having a draft regulation before the PZC allowing retail establishment, not allowing cultivation.

J Siris does not agree with recreational sales at this time but would be in support of medical sales.

D Rosengren proposes to have three proposed regulations to bring to the PZC.

**3. Next steps for Essex**

The group will report to the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 5, 2022 that after meeting several times the Subcommittee has agreed to disagree and has come out with three differing opinions; prohibit recreational sales; allow for sale of medical cannabis; and allow for recreational and medical cannabis.

**Meeting ended at 10:00am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carey Duques  
Land Use Official  
Town of Essex