



Town of Brookline

CANNABIS MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nancy Heller
Chair

Cannabis Mitigation Advisory Committee MINUTES – Tuesday, April 1, 2021 12 – 1 pm

Attendees

Committee Members: Matt Hyatt, Bruce Levin, Ana Otero, Alison Plante

Staff: Melissa Goff, Monique Baldwin, Maria Morelli, Lt. Det Paul Cullinane, Lesley Craft,

The CMAC virtual public hearing was held virtually via Zoom and was recorded. Although members of the public attended, there was no public comment.

Warrant Articles 19 & 20

Maria Morelli, Senior Planner, provided an overview of Warrant Articles 19 & 20 regarding marijuana delivery licenses; Marijuana Couriers and Marijuana Delivery Operators. Ms. Morelli noted that the marijuana delivery license types are reserved for Economic Empowerment and Social Equity applicants for a three year period, per the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). Warrant Articles 19 & 20 are proposed to include the new Delivery Operator license type in the zoning and general by-laws with measures to regulate the use, as well as updating the Town by-laws to be consistent with the CCC's regulations. Finally, Ms. Morelli reviewed the proposed changes regarding the loading requirements and parking.

Committee Member Ana Otero inquired regarding the eligibility requirements of Economic Empowerment and Social Equity Applicants. Ms. Morelli provided examples of the criteria.

Additionally, Ms. Otero inquired whether or not a Marijuana Courier was required to have an office. Ms. Morelli stated the Marijuana Courier would need to have an office space located within the host community it is licensed in.

Committee Member Alison Plante inquired about the stricken language in Warrant Article 20. Ms. Morelli noted that the text was stricken to avoid redundancy, as the proposed language refers back to the CCC's regulations.

Committee Member Bruce Levin asked if the Town had any measures in place to protect Economic Empowerment and Social Equity Applicants.

Ms. Morelli stated that one way to protect Equity applicants is to limit the square footage of the marijuana establishment. This would ensure that a larger, predatory company with deep pockets would be less likely to own more than 51% after the three year exclusive period.

Monique Baldwin, Cannabis Licensing & Mitigation Coordinator, stated that other communities have presented ideas regarding attracting Economic Empowerment and Social Equity applicants, as well as retaining them, such as lowering the mitigation fee from 3% to 2% or expedited permitting.

Committee Member Matt Hyatt asked for clarification regarding Marijuana Couriers and its delivery restrictions, its partners, and the proposed parking. Lt. Paul Cullinane and Ms. Morelli provided additional information.

Ms. Plante and Mr. Levin mentioned that Warrant Articles 19 and 20 were out of the scope of the Committee's charge.

Matt Hyatt moved that the Committee recommend favorable action inclusive of the edits regarding Warrant Articles 19 & 20 to Town Meeting. Alison Plante seconded.

Vote:

Bruce Levin: Abstain
Matt Hyatt: In Support
Ana Otero: Abstain
Alison Plante: In Support

Warrant Article 28

Ms. Baldwin provided a brief overview of Warrant Article 28.

Ms. Plante asked how the \$500,000 be allocated, and if the Cannabis Mitigation Advisory Committee (CMAC) would be able to advise how the funds are distributed. Ms. Baldwin stated that the way to spend the money has yet to be determined as Warrant Article 28 is just the first step.

Mr. Hyatt asked if the \$500,000 was a reoccurring allocation and if it would affect the priorities that CMAC submitted last month. Ms. Baldwin stated that the \$500,000 would be a one-time allocation and that it should not affect the priorities that CMAC has provided to Melissa Goff, Deputy Town Administrator.

Ms. Goff arrived shortly after, and provided more clarity regarding Warrant Article 28. Ms. Goff stated that Warrant Article 28 was to ask Town Meeting for permission in the form of a Home Rule Bill to ask that the expenditure be an allowed use of the funds. How the money will be spent and who will manage it will come later.

Ms. Otero made a motion to recommend favorable action regarding Warrant Article 28 to the Select Board. Alison Plante seconded.

Vote

Bruce Levin: Abstained

Matthew Hyatt: In Favor

Ana Otero: In Favor

Alison Plante: In Favor

Staff updates and meeting minute approval were continued to the following CMAC meeting, Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Meeting adjourned.

CMAC meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 12 pm.

Website: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/1725/Cannabis-Mitigation-Advisory-Committee>