



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, Danny Stone, Michael Zoorob

Staff: Monique Baldwin, Lt. Det Paul Cullinane, Lesley Craft

The CMAC virtual public hearing was held virtually via Zoom and was recorded.

Monique Baldwin, Cannabis Licensing & Mitigation Coordinator provided an update regarding marijuana licensing. Mission MA, Inc. appeared before the Select Board on April 27, 2021 however, it was determined that it needed to appear again before the Select Board on May 11, 2021, due to an improper vote.

Ms. Baldwin also stated NETA has indicated it is looking to partner with a marijuana courier. Town Staff is reviewing whether or not NETA will need to appear before the licensing board to modify its license conditions to do so.

Ms. Baldwin added that NETA is in the process of moving the medical portion to a new location at 1280 Boylston Street.

Finally, Ms. Baldwin (with the help of Committee Member Bruce Levin) noted that STEM is suing the City of Haverhill as the city did not respond to the request for information regarding expenditures related to mitigation funds. Mr. Levin stated that a reasonable disclosure of how the funds were spent is

necessary. Mr. Levin added that it appeared that the City of Haverhill is not using the funds in a manner that is reasonably related to mitigation.

Committee Member Ana Otero asked if marijuana retailers are permitted to request information on how the funds are spent. Ms. Baldwin stated that marijuana retailers can and have asked. She added that the Select Board's office recently sent in a statement of the total funds spent to NETA.

Committee Member Danny Stone asked if the Town was required to disclose that information. Ms. Baldwin stated that she was unsure, however, it was imperative to be transparent and to maintain good relationships with marijuana establishments and the CCC. Ms. Baldwin added that the Town is very responsive to such requests.

Committee Member Michael Zoorob asked if the marijuana courier was located in a different municipality, how it would affect the sales tax in Brookline. Ms. Baldwin stated that since marijuana couriers do not participate in the *sale* of marijuana, that marijuana couriers do not pay sales tax. Brookline could receive the sales tax if the marijuana courier partnered with a Brookline retailer. Essentially, the Town receives the sales tax generated from the retailer, in this case, NETA.

Ms. Otero asked regarding the new opening plans with Phase 4 and how that would work. Ms. Baldwin stated that Staff is actively in touch with retailers and that she would have a more in-depth answer soon.

The Committee decided to take public comment.

Ade Ijanusi: Shared concerns related to diversity plans and lack of implementation. Additionally, Mr. Ijanusi stated that Jonathan Lau should receive a marijuana retail license.

Mr. Levin stated that that decision is outside of the Committee's scope as CMAC does not have any say regarding who receives a license.

Ty Pain: Shared concerns related to diversity, specifically regarding hiring and marijuana retailers.

Ms. Otero thanked Mr. Pain for his comment and encouraged Mr. Pain to reach out to the Select Board and his Town Meeting Member.

There was further discussion regarding Brookline marijuana establishments and diversity.

Staff Updates:

Lt. Paul Cullinane stated that the department has been deploying bike officers as well as plain-clothes officers to try and reduce issues, however, that things had been pretty quiet.

Minutes:

Mr. Hyatt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2021. Committee Member Michael Zoorob seconded. It was a unanimous vote of the Committee to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2021.

The meeting minutes from April 1, 2021 were continued to the following meeting, June 3, 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>