



# Town of Brookline

## CANNABIS MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Miriam Ashkenazy  
Chair

### Cannabis Mitigation Advisory Committee MINUTES – Thursday, October 7, 2021 12:15 – 1 pm

#### Attendees

Committee Members: Bruce Levin, Ana Otero, Amy Newell, Miriam Ashkenazy, and Danny Stone

Staff: Monique Baldwin, Dr. Lesley Craft, Patrick Maloney, Todd Kirrane

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The CMAC public meeting was held virtually via Zoom and was recorded.

Monique Baldwin, Cannabis Licensing & Mitigation Coordinator, began the meeting with an overview of the agenda.

Patrick Maloney, the interim Health Department Director, introduced himself.

Todd Kirrane, Director of Transportation, stated he had no updates.

Lt. Paul Cullinane provided an update on behalf of the Police Department and noted that while there was an issue regarding public urination, it had been resolved.

Article 9 was presented by Ms. Baldwin. Article 9 relates to the creation of a study committee to consider policy regarding adult-use marijuana.

The Chair stated this warrant article could be an opportunity to redefine CMAC's scope to incorporate some areas that are proposed to be handled by the study committee. She stated she would like feedback regarding what CMAC could do better, from each committee member.

Committee Member Newell expressed her concerns regarding Warrant Article 9, more specifically the way it is written and what the result of that would be.

Ms. Baldwin noted that public comment should be taken and noted there was nobody who wanted to speak in favor or opposition regarding Warrant Article 9.

Committee Member Newell mentioned the study compared cannabis and nicotine as opposed to be what she considered a more appropriate comparison in terms of risk level between alcohol and cannabis. The chair agreed. Ms. Newell went further to say that she is concerned with advertising and regulations in the cannabis industry.

There was discussion surrounding voting in the same hearing or taking time to digest the warrant articles. Mr. Kirrane mentioned that the transportation commission typically votes in the same meeting because they only meet monthly like CMAC.

The Committee took a vote:

Warrant Article 9

Ana Otero – Opposed

Amy Newell – Opposed

Danny Stone – Opposed

Miriam Ashkenazy – Opposed

Bruce Levin – Abstained

Ms. Baldwin and the Chair provided a brief overview of Warrant Article 7.

The Chair opened the public comment portion. Ms. Baldwin stated there was no one who wished to speak in favor or opposition.

The Chair opened it up to comments, questions, or concerns from the committee members.

Committee Member Newell stated this article was the easy one.

The Chair agreed.

Committee Member Levin expressed his concerns over the increased competition and potentially an oversaturated market.

There was further discussion surrounding the responsibilities of business owners assessing its individual risks.

Ms. Baldwin added that the reason the Town is increasing Marijuana Retail licenses is because the Town likely isn't able to accommodate very many Marijuana Delivery Operators and Couriers, and that it aims to increase the types of diverse applicants in the retail space. There is no exclusive period offered per the State regarding Marijuana Retail licenses like it does for Marijuana Delivery Operators and Couriers.

The Committee took a vote:

Warrant Article 7

Ana Otero – Abstained

Amy Newell – In Favor

Danny Stone – In Favor

Miriam Ashkenazy – In Favor

Bruce Levin – Abstained

Ms. Baldwin provided an overview of Warrant Article 8.

The Chair opened the public comment portion. Ms. Baldwin stated there was no one who wished to speak in favor or opposition.

The Chair opened it up to comments, questions, or concerns from the committee members. The Committee expressed concerns relating to scenarios in which an existing Marijuana Retailer ceased operations, and the legality of the warrant article.

The Committee took a vote:

Warrant Article 8

Ana Otero – Abstained

Amy Newell – Opposed

Danny Stone – Opposed

Miriam Ashkenazy – Opposed

Bruce Levin – Abstained

Meeting adjourned.

*CMAC meetings are usually on the first Thursday of every month at noon.*

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