



TOWN OF CHARLTON
37 MAIN STREET
CHARLTON, MA. 01507
508-248-2210

Marijuana Advisory Committee

January 3, 2019

Members Present:

James Philbrook-Chairman/Health Director
Deborah Noble-Selectwoman
Daniel Dowd- Police Detective/Lt.
Jamie Leehy- Citizen Representative

Also Present:

Doug Shaffer- Valley Green Grow
James McMahon- Green Gold Group
Dennis Carlson- Fire Inspector-New Fire Member of the MAC
Jean Vincent- Planning Board-New Planning Board Member of the MAC (proposed)
Candy Sutherland- 34 Brackett Hill Rd.-New Planning Board Member of the MAC
(proposed)

- Chairman of the Marijuana Advisory Committee, James Philbrook, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- Doug Shaffer from Valley Green Grow (VGG) spoke about the denial of the site plan approval for VGG. The subdivision discussion was moved to January 14th. The deadline for the Planning Board to give a decision is January 21st.
- A question was asked about the VGG appeal process. Jean Vincent from the Planning Board briefly spoke about the denial and appeal process.
- Deb Noble spoke about the judgment hearing in the Worcester Land Court on January 4th.
- James McMahon gave an update on the Green Gold Group (GGG) Charlton facility. There is a DOT issue with the curb cuts on the property which has delayed the opening. GGG's architects are working with the DOT. Mr. McMahon will keep the MAC updated. Sign off from the DOT is needed to fulfill the

conditions from Planning Board and needed for the occupancy permit to be signed.

- Mr. McMahon stated that GGG started the hiring process. All positions at the facility will be filled by candidates selected from the job fair that was held in Charlton. The background check process is currently being done. Once the process is completed, there will be employee training then employees will start working at the North Brookfield facility before Charlton on-site training.
- Mr. Philbrook asked for an estimated resolution time for the DOT issue. Mr. McMahon is hoping to have it resolved by the end of this month.
- Ms. Noble asked how the delay of the opening would affect the new employees. Mr. McMahon stated that the employees still need their background checks completed and State IDs issued, so the two will hopefully align to allow employees to have sufficient notice.
- Ms. Noble asked about the employee demographics. 75-80% of the employees are women with 3 men.
- Daniel Dowd asked if the facility will open as medical first and when recreational would come into play. Mr. McMahon explained that as soon as there is CO approval, GGG can apply to the state for a recreational certificate.
- A parking question was asked. Mr. McMahon explained that medical only should keep the parking contained at 50-100 patients in a day. If needed for recreational, parking lots will be rented in town and customers will be shuttled from the lots to the back of the facility where a line would be formed to the front.
- A question was asked about the use of tents for customers waiting in line. Mr. McMahon stated that they are looking into tents and portable restroom facilities. This will also be an opportunity for local restaurants/food trucks to set up to serve people waiting in line.
- Mr. Philbrook asked what GGG will do to prevent parking in nearby businesses. Mr. McMahon explained that the tickets which allow you to get in to the facility will only be given out at the designated shuttle parking lots. This will be widely advertised to prevent parking issues.
- Ms. Leahy asked about the communication plan for the recreational opening. Mr. McMahon stated that medical will be a soft opening. The MAC and stakeholders in town will be notified when a full operations certificate is issued. Also, a website will be launching soon and employees will be working on a social media presence.
- Mr. McMahon will talk to Town Planner Bill Scanlon to see if GGG will need to come before the Planning Board again before opening.

- Ms. Noble spoke about the Board of Selectmen's decision to alter the makeup of the Marijuana Advisory Committee. The makeup of the MAC will now consist of Health Director or designee, Chief of Police or designee, Fire Chief or designee, Board of Selectmen, Board of Selectmen alternate, two citizen representatives, one alternate citizen representative and representative from the Planning and/or Zoning Department or designee. Current members will stay with the option to renew once a year. With these updates, one citizen, one alternate citizen and a representative from the Planning and/or Zoning Department or designee are needed. Ms. Noble stated that three people have stepped forward for the two citizen positions and Jean Vincent has stepped forward for the representative from the Planning and/or Zoning Department or designee.
- Brief discussion about the updated makeup of the MAC.
- Ms. Noble will bring the recommendations back to the Board of Selectmen for the new committee members.
- Ms. Noble stated that after the 'Cannabis in your Community' workshop, attendees are interested in attending another. Home cultivation is the desired topic. People want clarification about what they can do legally. Mr. Philbrook suggested reaching out the Cheryl Sbarra about this topic. Mr. McMahon suggested also adding safe storage and public and private possession as topics.
- Mr. McMahon and Mr. Philbrook spoke about the medical marijuana age laws.
- Mr. Philbrook discussed the new law which changed the age to purchase tobacco products to 21.
- Further discussion about medical marijuana card laws.
- Mr. Dowd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Second by Deb Noble, all in favor.

James Philbrook

