

On June 27, 2022, on a motion by Joe Gibbs, seconded by Ken Smith, the committee voted 5-0-1 (Joanne Crowley abstained) to approve these minutes.

Town of Yarmouth

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF
June 14, 2022

The Yarmouth Community & Economic Development Committee held a regular Business Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. The meeting was conducted in the Yarmouth Town Hall Room A and via Zoom teleconferencing.

Committee Members Present: Stephen O'Neil, Mary Vilbon, Joe Gibbs, Maria Marasco, Ken Smith, Joe Manning

Staff: Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK
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The meeting was opened by Stephen O'Neil at 4:30pm

1. Recreational Marijuana Discussion

Stephen O'Neil introduced the topic of recreational marijuana and emphasized that this was an initial general discussion. Any possible recommendations on the topic from the committee would be provided to the Board of Selectmen, who would then have to decide whether to bring it to the Planning Board for development of a proposed bylaw to present to Town Meeting voters. Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator, noted that there would need to be 2/3 majority approval from Town Meeting voters to approve a zoning bylaw regulating this industry.

Mary Vilbon expressed appreciation for the information provided to the committee by Mr. Pedicini. She noted that it included information about economic benefits and public safety impacts from neighboring communities that allow recreational marijuana dispensaries. Joe Manning stated that he thought this topics was a part of the discussion for economic development in Yarmouth. He stated that there have been no red flags evident from other communities that have allowed recreational marijuana dispensaries to operate and that the industry presents an economic opportunity for Yarmouth. He also noted that the zoning in place for marijuana establishments in Yarmouth is located in an isolated and accessible part of town. Maria Marasco expressed concern regarding marijuana shops in Yarmouth and commented that it is an addictive substance. She also expressed a preference to hear from the local Police and Fire Department on the issue. Joe Gibbs and Ken Smith expressed an interest to have the town explore recreational marijuana and the possible tax revenue benefits it could provide.

The committee received public comment from residents attending the meeting. Residents Christine Greeley, Tom Sullivan, and Vida Morris spoke in opposition to recreational marijuana stores in Yarmouth. Residents Jim Saben and Curt Sears spoke in favor of the town regulating recreational marijuana. Local entrepreneur Brett Husak also spoke in favor of the town exploring this industry to reap the potential community benefits.

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The committee agreed to consider what additional information they would like to see before officially weighing in on the subject. Committee members will email these needs to town staff to research and aggregate the information to present to the committee at a future meeting in August.

2. Review of Past Meeting Minutes

Vote: On a motion from Ken Smith, seconded by Maria Marasco the Committee voted to approve the minutes of May 24, 2022 as amended, by a vote of 5-0-1 (Joe Manning abstained).

3. Committee Member Updates

Mary Vilbon, Chamber of Commerce, noted that they had two ribbon cutting ceremonies scheduled for new businesses in Yarmouth this week and encouraged committee members to attend these events in the future.

4. Future Meeting Dates/Schedules

The committee's next meeting will take place on June 28th.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45pm