



**Cannabis Advisory Committee
Minutes
Remote Participation via Zoom
January 18, 2024 @ 1:00pm**

Board Members: Barry Rector (Chair), James Cooper, Abby DeMolina, Dorothy Hertz,
Dawn Hill-Holdgate, Joe Plandowski, Jacques Zimicki

I. Call to Order

Chair Rector called the meeting to order at approximately 1:12pm.

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Barry Rector (Chair) *Aye*

Abby DeMolina *Aye*

Joe Plandowski *Aye*

Jacques Zimicki *Aye*

Quorum was established

Public:

Dan Berger

II. Remotely Conducted Open Meetings Statement

Chair Rector read a prepared statement in accordance with Governor Baker's March 21, 2020 order regarding open meeting law, which outlines how the meeting is conducted via remote participation and states the ground rules for any discussion.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Plandowski made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. DeMolina.

Vote taken by Roll Call:

Abby DeMolina *Aye*
Joe Plandowski *Aye*
Jacques Zimicki *Aye*
Barry Rector (Chair) *Aye*

Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Draft Minutes

Tabled by consent.

V. Public Comment

Mr. Berger generously provided updates from the last meeting and mentioned timelines established by the Cannabis Control Commission while looking forward to a productive year.

VI. Election of Officers

- a. Chair
- b. Vice-chair
- c. Secretary

The Chair requested that this matter be continued until a full board is present. Tabled by consent.

VII. Discussion of December 11th MMA Webinar – Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities

The Chair quickly reviewed the MMA webinar conducted on December 11th. There was discussion on the new changes being implemented by the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). The Commissioners noted that the number of changes had made a number of Towns and Cities distressed with the CCC. The Commissioners agreed that a number of the changes which favored cannabis business owners would be helpful to the continued growth of the industry.

VIII. Update from Town Manager

Mr. Rector stated that he had an initial dialogue with the Town Manager to discuss the changes being imposed by the CCC and how they would affect current regulations in place by the Town. Mrs. Gibson thought it best to have a joint meeting with her, the Cannabis Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, Leslie Woodson-Snell, Director of PLUS, and Dawn Hill-Holdgate, Chair of the Select Board. Chair Rector shared an e-mail that he had sent to the aforementioned members outlining potential changes that Nantucket would probably have to adopt to stay current with the upcoming changes proposed by the CCC.

Both the Town Manager and the Chair of the Select Board wanted to wait to discuss the changes from the CCC. Once the CCC had final versions of the proposed changes, there would then be a joint meeting of the CAC, Select Board, Director of PLUS and Town Counsel. After that meeting, a series of public forums would be hosted to obtain feedback from the public on the proposed changes by the Town. This would lead to a proposed series of warrant articles for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 25. The proposed warrant articles would need to be brought to and vetted by both the Planning Board and/or Finance Committee.

The Chair stated that the Social Equity Policy would come back before the CAC in the next few months. The CCC continues to refine the document at this time.

The Chair asked for any feedback from the CAC members regarding the CCC Host Community Agreement template comment period which closes on January 31st. The committee deliberated over whether to provide feedback during the open comment period, with particular attention paid to the documentation's use of the term "marijuana" instead of "cannabis." Despite divergent opinions on the subject, the conversation circled back to recognizing the necessity for updating terminology consistently across legal documents.

The committee discussed how equity and local employment opportunities can be addressed within cannabis industry regulations, emphasizing the importance of "good faith" efforts to remain inclusive and open to qualified candidates from all backgrounds. These requirements have become prevalent across municipal government operations and are expected to feature prominently in future policy work.

The Committee informally agreed to not send comments to the Cannabis Control Commission on the template from the CCC at this time.

In conclusion, the Cannabis Advisory Committee is looking forward to streamlining its processes, working in concert with Town administration, and holding public forums for community input. The timeline for formally introducing regulatory changes points towards the Annual Town Meeting in 2025, with a focus on aligning with the upcoming mandates from the Cannabis Control Commission.

IX Next meeting

- a. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1:00PM
- b. Next tentatively scheduled meeting February 15, 2024

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Plandowski and seconded by Ms. DeMolina to adjourn the meeting at approximately 2:12pm

Board Members:

Barry Rector (Chair) *Aye*
Abby DeMolina *Aye*
Joe Plandowski *Aye*
Jacques Zimicki *Aye*

Motion approved unanimously.