

Medical Cannabis Ordinance
Meeting Minutes 08/02/16

Meeting called to order @ 07:03pm by Chairman MacMaster

Committee members present – Les MacMaster, Ken Little, Sarah Gormady, Mike Fulginiti, Dan Drake, Diann Perkins

There were also three interested citizens in attendance.

Item 1 – Housekeeping

Les will provide a MMO briefing to the Fairgrounds Committee on 08/04.

Les distributed a recent Portland Press Herald article (08/01/16) detailing Saco's effort to restrict medical marijuana cultivation by caregivers to a specific industrial zone within the town.

Item 2 – Radio Frequency Interference/Electrical Magnetic Interference

Ken reported on his review of RFI/EMI issues to the group. RFI from grow lights can be a significant issue with amateur radio operators and listeners of AM radio. Les reported that he had contacted Deputy Fire Chief (Sam Gilpatrick) regarding interference with emergency radio operation. Chief Gilpatrick stated that RFI has not had an impact on emergency radio operations in Cornish, and noted he had not heard of this being a problem. Sarah reported she had contacted the FCC about RFI/EMI and was told that the FCC has a complaint process already in place for RFI/EMI related issues. She was also told that RFI/EMI is a federal issue and not usually addressed in town ordinances. It was noted that RFI/EMI can be generated from any electrical device (microwave ovens, electric blankets, TV's, electrical bug zappers, battery chargers, etc.) not adhering to FCC standards or not being properly filtered.

The MMO felt that this topic would be better addressed in the Land Use Ordinance, if at all, as RFI/EMI can be generated by any electrical device. To limit the discussion to grow lights used in medical cannabis cultivation does not address RFI/EMI issues generated by all other sources.

Les will generate a letter to the Planning Board outlining the discussion and looking for guidance.

Item 2 – Ordinance Development

This was the third reading of the ordinance. We went line by line through Version 1.1 of the ordinance. Language, punctuation and wording were reviewed for consistency.

Several changes were introduced to clarify intent. Changes will be incorporated into Version 1.2.

Action Items For Next Meeting

Les will generate a letter to the Planning Board regarding the RFI/EMI topic.

The next meeting will be on Tues 08/16 at 7:00pm at Pike Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 09:19pm.