

Town of South Berwick
Ad Hoc Committee for Medical Cannabis Storefronts in South Berwick

Pursuant to Town Council vote on 12/11/18 and Workshop on 1/15/19, the Town seeks an ad hoc committee for further study of the appropriateness of Retail Sales of Medical Cannabis in South Berwick.

Committee Charge:

The South Berwick Town Council is appointing an Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) charged with the investigation, research, and recommendations limited to the scope of analysis of the impacts associated with allowing a medical cannabis storefront within the boundaries of the Town of South Berwick. Retail sales could include cannabis or cannabis derivatives as well as products associated with the consumption of these products. Results produced by this Committee will be utilized for possible future actions(s) towards the potential placement of a Medical Cannabis Storefront(s) in South Berwick. **Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facilities, Testing, and Manufacturing are excluded from consideration at this time.**

Background:

The Maine Legislature has passed legislation (LD 1539) that allows municipalities to “Opt-in” or “Opt-out” concerning the Retail Sales, Growth, and Testing of Medical Cannabis. Registered Caregivers can distribute cannabis or cannabis derivatives to a select group of individuals but cannot set up a Medical Cannabis Storefront without approval of the town or city government.

The Town Needs:

Retail sales of medical Cannabis or Cannabis Derivatives are currently absent in our Town Land Use Tables and Performance standards. The Town will need to update or not update those tables and performance standards in order to, or not to allow Medical Cannabis Storefront(s). Impacts shall include safety, parking, traffic, proximity to residences and other businesses, impact on the present twenty-two State Licensed Caregivers in South Berwick, etc. as well as any other impacts that are associated with this type of business.

Committee Make-up:

The Committee shall constitute up to five (5) residents of South Berwick. The Town will utilize Paul Schumacher of SMPDC to facilitate the meetings. The Town Council will narrow the applicant list for interviews and shall pick the five members of the committee. Those that have expressed a strong emotion either pro or con will not be considered for the committee. **Town Councilors and the Town Manager may act as resources but should recognize that this Committee is advisory and not be involved so as to sway the information delivered to them in any fashion.**

Timeline:

The Committee shall meet at minimum twice a month. Minutes shall be taken. The Committee shall report out to the Town Council six weeks after the group is formed and once a month after that until completion. The group should finalize its findings back to the Town Council no later than June 15, 2019 at which point the task to the Committee shall sunset.

Resources: Including but not limited to, MMA, MTCMA, State Legislation, SMPDC, Town Council, Town Manager, November 6, 2018 Marijuana Survey, Medical Cannabis Caregivers, Legal Assistance through the Town Manager, Code Officer, Others

Adopted by Council 1/22/2019