## Town of North Canaan

## Planning and Zoning

## May 9, 2022 6:00pm

## Public Hearing on moratorium on recreational cannabis establishments

Present: Chairman Tim Abbott, Douglas Humes, Mike O’Connor, Peter Brown; Dalton Jacquier; Ed Capowich alternate, not seated

Chairman Abbott called the hearing to order at 6:01pm and established a quorum.

Chairman Abbot gave opening remarks that this is a required public hearing on a proposed 12-month moratorium on recreational cannabis establishments in North Canaan. This is just to get the public’s input on the moratorium. There will be a 5-minute limit per speaker. The moratorium is not a ban it is just a pause in order for continued research on the subject and we want to know how the public feels about it. The board will not be answering questions.

Public comment:

Sue Boults – Church St - in favor of the moratorium

Elissa Terry –Canaan Valley- Although not necessarily in favor of cannabis she understands that it would help tax revenue

Ruth Adotte – Canaan Valley – knows people are hesitant about having a retail store here but the revenue that would come into town from the sale of the products would certainly help. The tax bills are getting higher, and the selectmen are out of options to fix it.

Maribeth Marchi – Margaret Lane – In favor of the possibility of tax revenue – she would like to make sure the board uses the moratorium to do the research.

Shawn Clayton: Green Acres – agrees about the increase in revenue and cannabis is readily available. This shouldn’t be the mayhem like it was in Great Barrington. Retail shops and restaurants in town may see an increase in revenue as well.

Ed Capowich – would urge a 6-month moratorium since state is looking to release the licenses rather than 12 months.

Lyle Kloke - Barlow Street – is strongly opposed to a moratorium and he feels the board has been negligent about not doing their research over the past year. There would only be 1 facility per town based on population. The longer we wait the less likelihood we will get revenue.

Shawn Clayton – he feels cannabis would bring jobs into to town.

Lyle Kloke – stated that cannabis has been around for a long time and not going away and is easily accessible minutes up the road.

Chairman Abbott asked for any further public comment. Hearing none, the chairman read into record 3 written communications received by the board.

Letter from Howard Monnier – he is not in favor of a moratorium and has strong feelings in favor of cannabis and that it is not as bad as alcohol. It would also generate revenue.

Susan Clayton – is in favor of a 6-month moratorium but she does believe cannabis would be a revenue generator for the town and with the educational costs rising it would be helpful. She spent time researching by visiting the sites in Sheffield and Great Barrington and they are very good about showing proof of identity and the facilities are clean.

Chris Jacque and Eliza Rosker – urge the moratorium be temporary allowing the board to study the recreational cannabis regulation. Would help with tax revenue, lowering the mil rate and bring shoppers to town.

**Mr. O’Connor made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:24pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary