

**TOWN OF CHESTER
2022 CANNABIS MEETING MINUTES**

Moderator William Dakin called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and read the Warning and explained that voting would be done by Australian Ballot. He then read the Warning.

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet on Monday, February 28, 2022, at a time following the regular Town Meeting, via Zoom and/or in person for a hybrid Informational Meeting on the following Article. Voting on Article 1 will be by Australian ballot on March 1, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the Town of Chester authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863?

Arne Jonynas advised that 5% of the registered voters signed a petition for this article to be voted on. The Selectboard has been having meetings about this issue and this is a required Informational Meeting. Acts 164 and 62 are the acts that are legalizing the sale of cannabis in Vermont. Towns can opt in or opt out of cannabis retail sales.

Several voters expressed their opinion and asked questions about cannabis retail sales in Town.

Arne Jonynas advised that Towns can have a Local Control Commission and the Planning Commission and Development Review Board can add control.

Julie Hance explained that there would be no tax revenue. The Town does not have a local option tax.

Scott McDonald clarified that if the Town decided to have a 1% tax on retail it would be for all retail not just cannabis.

Arne Jonynas explained that the State is responsible for issuing a permit or license. Per Zoning a retail establishment would be a conditional use and in the new bylaws it would be an allowed use. Cathy Hasbrouck clarified that the proposed amendment to the bylaws only includes the Green area as a permitted use of retail.

Police Chief Rick Cloud advised that control would be through the State level and the Liquor Control Board and there is not a roadside test for cannabis or any other drug. Police Departments must call a Drug Recognition Officer.

Lee Gustafson expressed concern for potential cost to the taxpayers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

A true copy.



Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk

William E. Dakin, Jr., Moderator

Arunas Jonynas, Selectboard Chair