



Planning Board Minutes – May 14, 2013

A meeting of the Town of Freetown **Planning Board** was held on **May 14, 2013** at the Freetown Elementary School, Bullock Rd, East Freetown, MA. **Present:** Chairman Robert Raymond, Mark Rogers, and Keven Desmarais.

A. Meeting called to order by Chairman Raymond to discuss proposed zoning bylaw changes (7:03 PM)

The Chairman states that the portion of the published notice referring to 'Article 11, Section 18 G.1' should be corrected to 'Article 11, Section 18 H.1'. Mr. Raymond asks for a vote on waiving the reading of the entire notice, all in agreement. **Motion to adopt new wording in the article to reflect the state's change in definition to 'Registered Marijuana Dispensaries': Kevin Desmarais; Second: Mark Rogers; all in favor.**

Mr. Raymond produced a powerpoint presentation, and stated the following reasons for zoning RMDs in I2:

- Residential homes are not visible
- Accessible to Rt 24
- Enough are to accommodate a large scale operation
- AG does not deem this zoning to be too restrictive

Chief Abbott recommended a moratorium to give the town time to explore legal and environmental issues, await further DPH review, and speak to town counsel.

Resident Phil Falzarano stated that these facilities should be zoned similar to other medical establishments, and that relegating them to I2 only, is restrictive. Mr. Desmarais stated that was not the intent. After some discussion, members of the board reiterated that these facilities would still be subject to local laws, regs, etc already in place, and that they crafted the article with the best interests of Freetown in mind.

Mr. Raymond stated that in light of the different opinions, asking for a moratorium would not honor the wishes of the 65% of voters who voted in favor of medical marijuana. The zoning proposal seems more in keeping in line with voters wishes, and if more people had objections, more would have attended the public hearing.

After some discussion, Mr. Raymond stated that the possibility of requiring the facilities to obtain a special permit was also an option to the town, which would help to better mitigate the projects through a public hearing process.

Motion to close public hearing (8:09 PM): Keven Desmarais; Second: Mark Rogers; Voted unanimously

Motion to recommend the article as written with the change in verbage from 'Medical' to 'Registered' for town meeting: Keven Desmarais; Second: Mark Rogers; Voted unanimously