

11/13/19 Cannabis Committee Meeting

Attending: Andrew Stoddard, Rick Lotuff, Bill St. Croix, Richard Fly and Jon Hogan

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley was present for part of the meeting as well.

Both Rick Lotuff and Andrew Stoddard updated the Committee regarding their cannabis-related business ventures.

Rick said that he has a Host Agreement and permit for the cultivation of cannabis at his property The Mill Yard in Ware.

Andrew Stoddard also let the Committee know that he has a Host Agreement and permit for his cannabis cultivation venture Primo LLC, in Ware.

The Committee discussed that recently the US Attorney Generals office has begun examining several cities and towns Host Agreements, due to allegations of undue influence, corruption, irregularities, etc. In light of this both Andrew and Rick offered to step away from their positions on the Committee. The other Committee members felt this would be a premature move at this point. Also Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley offered to address this concern with the Town's attorney. Also of note is that from the onset of this Committee both Rick Lotuff and Andrew Stoddard have informed the Committee of their cannabis-related business ventures.

The Committee then reviewed Committee member Richard Fly's description of the Cannabis Committee and it's mission statement. The Committee's hope is to incorporate this onto the Town of Ware's website. The Committee approved of the write-up, though Andrew Stoddard suggested that we change our current name the Ware Cannabis Committee to the Ware Cannabis Advisory Committee, with the hope that this would make it more clear that we are acting only in an advisory capacity as opposed to setting rules, being able to say "yes or no" to proposals, etc. All agreed that this would be an excellent idea.

The Committee also agreed that we should incorporate the by-laws specific to cannabis onto the Cannabis Advisory Committee's tab on the Town of Ware website.

The Committee also had a discussion about Hemp cultivation and manufacturing in Ware. Bill St. Croix noted that the greater Ware area likely would have several potentially suitable sites due to its' history of rope, shoelace and other related manufacturing in the area. The Committee agreed to seek out the Quaboag Chamber of Commerce along with broaching this with Stuart Beckley.

For the next Cannabis Advisory Committee meeting the group agreed to address:

Updating the Town of Ware website re the Cannabis Advisory Committee

Updating Host Agreements on the website

Updating the Committee' efforts re outreach to the Quaboag Chamber of Commerce and Town of Ware concerning Hemp manufacturing options, prospects, etc.

***Note: due to an oversight the minutes of last month's 9/26/19 Cannabis Committee meeting were not reviewed and approved. This will be addressed at our next meeting which will be held on Thursday January 9, 2020

Jon Hogan-recording secretary 11/21/19