

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
September 17, 2024

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT www.mtbluetv.org)

Members Present: David Leavitt, Mike Wells, Tiffany Maiuri, Keith Swett, Phil Hilton (Absent), Maria Greeley (Town Manager).

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED CANNABIS ORDINANCE-6:00 P.M.

Mike Wells-Chairperson of the Cannabis Committee gave an overview on the proposed Cannabis Ordinance. He thanked Tom Saviello, John Black, Brian from Honeycomb Farms and Gary Judkins, Code Enforcement Officer for all of their great help to establish the moratorium and this ordinance. He talked about how safety and image is a factor and the ordinance needed to get in order. The OCP (Office of Cannabis Policy) statute had a lot of open-ended loopholes. The rewrite of the Maine Statute for Adult Use and Medical Use was done very well.

On July 30 there was an implementation of a recent enacted legislation and stated several laws enacted impact local regulation of medical and adult use cannabis program participants by municipalities says these changes may require prompt action by municipal officials to review any existing warrant articles or ordinance governing the operation of medical cannabis registrants within the municipality. There were significant changes prior to this statute. The Town of Wilton did not have authority to know what type of operations were operating in the Town of Wilton. We had no authority to ask the OCP (Office Cannabis Policy) what medical establishments there are in our town. The Town now can only know the location of the medical facilities but also to regulate that. The one thing that we do not have the authority to do is regulate the number but we can regulate locations by land use planning. The definitions were aligned with the State of Maine and falls in line with the OCP (Office of Cannabis Policy) and the State Statute.

Speaker-Tom Saviello is thankful for Mike and the Cannabis Committee for the work they did. He feels what should be taken out of the proposed ordinance is

there should not be a limit to the number of establishments. He would be interested in what the attorney would have to say about this ordinance and does disagree with the tracking. In regards to fees, you cannot charge more than it actually costs the committee. You can not charge them more than normal. Tom suggested doing something about the application fee but the actual licenses wanting to replace is the Town responsibility.

Speaker-Nathan Hiltz spoke on Article 19-The Amendment Process and it says that a public hearing will be advertised in the newspaper 7 days before a Public Hearing. He suggested amending this from the 7-day requirement to 4 days. This would allow giving the Town 2 chances to get it into the newspapers.

Speaker-Kathleen Masterman spoke on a concern of no advertising of the meetings on the sign located at McGillicuddy Park and also on the Town Facebook page.

Speaker-Amber Patterson-Honeycomb Farms spoke on the occupational permit. There are a lot of caregivers in the town that are unaware that the town are wanting them to apply for occupational permits. Amber feels they should be granted more anonymity because of their home, kids, dogs and money. Amber also spoke on the concern of internet-based sales (Section I-2). The means of USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL or any other similar global, local delivery service or courier is federally illegal.

Keith-The current ordinance says at home caregivers must have a permit to do any at home.

Speaker-Amber Patterson-Honeycomb Farms-Security is a predicament for homeowners.

Speaker-John Black-Earthkeepers uses a credit card and ATM machine and this is detrimental to his business. He suggested removing that line in Section I-2. In Article 12-2C, John spoke on some distance concerns between daycares, churches and whatever may be. (Article 12-2C)

Mike stated that it is recommended by the Attorney is to allow somebody to put in a daycare and that is on them.

John Black-Earthkeepers would like to see something from the Attorney stating he would not be liable for that.

Keith stated that it is current in our town ordinance that Cannabis cannot go within 500 feet but the opposite can. This is in our current ordinance.

Public Meeting closed at 6:00 P.M.

David commented in regards to Tom Saviello's concern on limiting the number.

David feels they should not limit and let the market determine.

Tiffany agrees with David. It is a free market. We should not limit.

Keith asked what the purpose of the moratorium is?

David explained the purpose is to get definition to align with the State Legislature.

Mike differs a little. Image and safety are a concern.

David gave Farm and Forest as an example. There is no limit. We should not limit the number but could possibly limit where.

Tiffany-Section I-2-Delivery Services was discussed. Internet based sales and the Debit/Credit card usage has concerns and is misleading. It is suggested that "delivery of USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL or any other similar global or local delivery service or courier" should be removed from the proposed ordinance.

It was discussed whether changes could be voted on at the special Town Meeting coming up or could changes be corrected at this meeting.

Article 2-Authority and Applicability was discussed and remove "delivery of USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL or any other similar global or local delivery service or courier".

Keith asked if the number of Businesses are being limited? Can we remove the last page?

Mike stated that this was a major reason of this moratorium. The limit pertains to Caregiver Retail and Adult Use Retail.

Keith suggested having the town vote as long as we are somehow informing the town that they have that option and that they do not have to accept it as written.

Advertising is a concern.

Mike spoke on David's good point in which any article that comes before the Town in a Town Meeting process, all those articles can be a motion to adjust or amend and then vote on. So, that is typical procedure for a Town Meeting, Special Town Meeting or Annual Town Meeting.

Tiffany asked on making a motion, go point for point.

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To strike the language in Article 13, Section I, Number 2- "delivery of USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL or any other similar global or local delivery service or courier" from the proposed Cannabis Ordinance.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To remove Table 1-Maximum number of Businesses- including Notes 1 through 4.

Mike questioned if Keith meant forgoing this table.

David suggested eliminating the ones that are a total of 5 and keep the State Law items.

Tiffany agrees with David. To entertain what we have from the public, we would want to limit it to a retail store and then the maximum number would say just like the rest do, unlimited and eliminate #3 and not eliminate the entire page.

Keith requested to remove his motion.

Mike stated that State law is referred to all of the other types of Cannabis Businesses with the exception of retail stores. Retail stores are 5 total-Adult and Medical. This is what the Cannabis Committee agreed on; for falling into compliance and satisfying the moratorium.

David questioned whether State law was followed.

Mike said that the ones we follow State Law on is the registered caregiver. You can not limit the number of caregivers. Registered caregivers. You can regulate the number of retail stores, dispensaries.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To move forward the Cannabis Ordinance as amended.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Item #1- Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2- Minutes from September 3 Meeting

Motion by David/Second by Mike - Move to Approve the Select Board Minutes from the September 3, 2024 meeting.

Keith questioned Item #5-Mt. Blue Foster Tech Program(s) and he questioned clarification Item #9 in regards to if a specific date could be replaced.

Minutes stayed as is. No amendments made.

Vote: 3-1-Opposed (Keith)-1 (Absent-Phil) Passes

Item #3- Public to speak on non-agenda item

Nathan Hiltz-Resident spoke on the Town Website, Departments Link, Code Enforcement Link and ordinances link. The ordinances do not have listed General Assistance or Cannabis related ordinances.

Nick Santora-Resident-Thanked the Select Board for what they do. He spoke on the topic of the public knowledge that was brought up. He has concerns with the Police Dept in regards to Public Access. Nick thanked the Select Board for the purchase of half purchase of the fire truck. Nick also questioned what can the Town do to have a police officer stay with us and not jump to other towns? He asked about money spent on training. Nick also spoke on issue of speeding and how the Town of Farmington's Police Chief provides a report on speeding activity. He is asking the Select Board if something could be done with speeding in our Town?

Tiffany did mention that we did not have a full staffing.

Item #4- Approval of Special Town Meeting Warrant Article

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To move to Approve as written.

Mike asked if this was at Academy Hill School?

Maria -Yes, it is.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move to Approve as amended. Special Town Meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2024 6:00 P.M. Academy Hill School

Maria explained that the warrant will be posted as soon as possible this week to help get the information out to the public.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil) To remove first motion

Vote: 4-1 (Absent-Phil) To Approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article as amended. Passes.

Item #5- Application for an On-Premises License-Meadow Lanes

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To Approve the Application for an On-Premises License for Meadow Lanes.

Taxes and Fees are paid/current

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

**Item #6- Letter of Support-Maine State Housing Authority
(Letter attached)**

Motion by Keith/Second by Tiffany-To Approve and Authorize Maria Greeley, Town Manager to sign the Letter of Support-Maine State Housing for the Mission at the Eastward on behalf of the Town.

David is a little unclear, it didn't want taxpayer money but it wanted State money?

Maria read the Letter from Maine State Housing for Mission at the Eastward. (Attached)

Mike was questioning the funding of this program

Tiffany suggested adding language

Maria clarified that Maine State Housing funds this.

Mike-It is a volunteer program that helps people to keep people in their homes

Mike asked Keith to amend the motion

Keith is comfortable with his motion.

Maria is suggesting instead of the letter stating funding the program, it could state, "your support with funding the program would help insure your support."

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

Item #7- Resolution of Select Board-Relating to Lease Purchase Financing

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move to allow the Town Manager and the Select Board Chair to sign the Lease Purchase Financing document.

Motion changed.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move to allow the Town Manager to sign all three documents pertaining to the Lease Purchase Financing for the Fire Truck.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

Item #8- Set Date for General Assistance Ordinance Public Hearing-October 1, 2024

David asked if there was a conflict because we have the Special Town Meeting set for October 1, 2024.

Maria spoke with Cindy (GA Administrator). The General Assistance Maximums were recently received. The deadline is September 30, 2024.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move to Approve the Public Hearing date of October 1, 2024 at the Academy Hill School for the General Assistance Ordinance.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

Item #9-Public Information Officer Appointment

Maria would be happy to be appointed as the Public Information Officer.

Motion by David/Second by Tiffany-Move to Approve Maria Greeley, Town Manager as the Public Information Officer.

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil)

Item #10-Other

David confirmed Thursday September 19, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. to meet with Mike, John and Jordan in regards to the Public Parking and ATV's.

Also discussed was ATV Access and the Bryant Road-Could this be an access route? It would be accessible to the Tractor Supply.

Keith requested a future meeting or workshop for ATV access and roads within town limits.

Tiffany suggested setting a date. Date was set for October 15, 2024 5:00 P.M.

Item #11-Manager's Report

Election Timeline-Election Day-November 5, 2024 8:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.

Absentee Ballots may be requested to receive by mail anytime. Ballots will be available 30 days before the election.

Deadline to request an Absentee Ballot without providing a special circumstance (Or reason why you can not be present at the polls) is October 31, 2024.

Residents may register to vote at the Town Office before the Election or at the polling place on Election Day.

Item #12-Adjourn

Motion by David/Second by Keith -Move to Adjourn

Vote: 4-1(Absent-Phil) 7:23 P.M.

September 10th, 2024

Maine State Housing Authority
Review Committee for Long-Term Solutions to Assist People Experiencing Homelessness
26 Edison Drive
Augusta, ME. 04330

Dear Maine Housing Authority,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the request for funding by Mission at the Eastward for their continued work in conducting volunteer home repairs for low-income individuals and families and the elderly who reside in the greater Farmington area. Mission at the Eastward is helping to serve the most vulnerable members of Wilton, who don't qualify for the aid they need from other sources, from falling into homelessness by utilizing their robust and skilled volunteer workforce.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Mission at the Eastward as they seek external funding to support their home repair program that's designed to keep people in their homes and avoid falling into the devastating cycle of homelessness. This critical program has been preventing members of our community who are most susceptible to falling into homelessness from doing so for the past 45 years. Funding the program would help to ensure that these neighbors of ours, who are most in jeopardy of falling into homelessness (there is currently no homeless shelter in Franklin county), get the aid they need to remain in their homes.

Sincerely,

(original signature here)

Maria Greeley
Wilton Town Manager