

Town of Buckfield
Public Hearing
Proposed Marijuana Ordinance
Followed by
Proposed Subdivision Regulations
5/31/22 6pm

Attending:

Andrew Labbe Vivian Wadas Azalea Cormier Travis Lowell Seneca Lowell Nina Lavoie
Daniel Lavoie Derek Lavoie Karisti Graffam

Public Hearing Opened at 6pm.

Mr. Labbe voiced a concern regarding the 500-foot setback from any daycare, school or religious institution. Mr. Labbe recommends 300 feet. He stated that as we have a small compact downtown and attempting to spread-out may have even more issues than being downtown. Mr. Labbe also stated he would be willing to be closed on Sundays if that was a compromise others saw as a way forward.

Ms. Wadas had not had time to review the document so was unsure of her questions. She did have a few listed here;

Has Wilton done any research in terms of any public safety issues?
Has anyone looked at parking in terms of the location near the fire rescue building?
Are the fees addressed in the Ordinance?
Can someone open a retail store and then sell to someone else without going through the process?
What are the setbacks from the property lines?

Chairman Holmes provided the following answers to these questions;

I do not know,
not to my knowledge
The Selectmen will set the fees
No the Ordinance outlines transfers of ownership
setbacks are determined in the Building Permit Ordinance.

Question: Does it address how many retail stores would be allowed? No.

Question: Does the Ordinance set any limits on how many retail stores? No

It was recommended that a limit of no more than four, two medical and two recreational.

The question was put forward regarding when applying for an application, does a Buckfield resident get preference. The Ordinance does not address this in any way. Several individuals stated they felt Buckfield residents should have first choice. Ms. Cormier stated she likes the idea that if there is a limit on the store's preference be given to Buckfield residents.

Someone asked about the projected increase in tax revenue. Tax revenue will be directly related to the assessed value of any new construction.

A concern was raised regarding enforcement, and it was noted the Code enforcement officer is responsible for several things in the ordinance.

Mr. Labbe stated the State has regulators that come around regularly to make sure people are complying.

Closed public hearing for adult use medical marijuana ordinance at 6:28pm.

Opened public hearing at 6:38pm re: Subdivision Regulations.

Pg. 7, only change, #5 (reviewed change). Buckfield didn't change its regulations when the state did a number of years ago. The effective date was discussed and it will either be a date prior to the first sale on Sodom Road that brought this to light or Earlier when the state updated their definitions.

It was asked, would retroaction apply to any previous subdivisions? Chair Holmes explained that no other Subdivisions where in the same situation if any were they could now move forward.

Close public hearing at 6:49pm regarding subdivision regulations.

Hearing adjourned at 6:49pm.