



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectman

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. Robert Hendrick
Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission
Via email to rhendrick@ridgefieldct.org

Dear Rob,

At the last Board of Selectmen meeting, the topic of allowing cannabis in Ridgefield was an agenda item.

As you know, the Board of Selectmen conducted three public information meetings. Those meetings were held on March 19, 2022, March 26, 2022 and April 2, 2022. All three meetings were conducted at Town Hall to solicit opinions and to disseminate facts relative to the most recent State of Connecticut legislation allowing for the cultivation, manufacturing/packaging and sale of cannabis in Connecticut. There are a series of additional allowances per Statute that are inclusive to the Board of Selectmen's decision.

On the morning of April 11, 2022 I met with Attorney Pat Sullivan and Attorney David Grogins to discuss various options for the Board of Selectmen moving forward. Those options were presented as follows:

1. The Board of Selectmen could vote to establish a "policy" on cannabis in the Town of Ridgefield. Both attorneys agreed that a vote by the Board of Selectmen would certainly be valid as for establishing a policy, however that vote would not preclude the Planning and Zoning Commission from voting to establish zones within the Town of Ridgefield for any of the allowances established by Statute.
2. The Board of Selectmen has the option of establishing an ordinance and proceeding according to the requirements of establishing an ordinance in the Town of Ridgefield. Such proceeding would require a Public Hearing and a Town Meeting. Within this process the Board of Selectmen could also remove the vote from the call of the Town Meeting and send the question to a separate referendum.
3. As to the question of combining a vote on cannabis with our upcoming budget referendum, our attorneys gave the option of a separate ballot which would be distributed at the polling location in addition to the budget ballot. Voters would cast their

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ballot for the budget on one side of the floor and then proceed to the other side for their second ballot vote.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 13, 2022 the Board discussed these options and concluded that they wanted to vote that evening as the Board of Selectmen choosing to establish a policy for the Town of Ridgefield that prohibits all possible uses of cannabis and cannabis related business.

If the Commission has any questions or would like the attendance of the Board of Selectmen at a future Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to discuss further or clarify our vote and the establishment of a policy against the sale or any other use of cannabis, please let me know and we will make every effort to attend a meeting.

Sincerely,


Rudy Marconi