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**Planning Board**

John R. Bethoney, Chair

Ralph I. Steeves, Vice Chair

Robert D. Aldous, Clerk

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**TOWN OF DEDHAM**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 12, 2017, 7 p.m., Lower Conference Room**

**Present:** John R. Bethoney, Chair

Ralph I. Steeves, Vice Chair

Robert D. Aldous, Clerk

James E. O’Brien IV

Michael A. Podolski, Esq.

Richard J. McCarthy, Jr., Planning Director

Call to order 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Plans, documents, studies, etc., referred to are incorporated as part of the public records and are on file in the Planning and Zoning office.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Discussion of Proposed Zoning Article 8**

**2017 Special Town Meeting**

Mr. Aldous moved to waive reading of the public notice, seconded by Mr. Podolski, voted unanimously, 5-0. Public Hearing notice for the proposed zoning articles for the spring Town Meeting was posted in Town Hall on September 21, 2017, and advertised in the *Dedham Times* on September 22, 2017, and September 29, 2017. Abutting towns, Needham, Westwood, Canton, and Milton, City of Boston, Department of Housing and Community Development, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and Boston Planning & Development Agency were notified on September 22, 2017, via certified mail, return receipt. Positions on each article were taken at the end of the Public Hearing.

Mr. Podolski moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Aldous, voted unanimously, 5-0. Mr. Bethoney read the agenda notice into the record:

**Article 8:** *By the Board of Selectmen.*To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit the operation of non-medical marijuana establishments in the Town, … provided, however, that this bylaw amendment shall take effect following passage by the voters at a Town Election, and after all the requirements of G.L. c.40, §32 have been satisfied.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Article 8 would prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana in the Town of Dedham. There would be a general bylaw provision that will be on the Special Town Meeting in January 2018 as well. It would also be put on the ballot in Spring 2018. The article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Podolski commended the Board of Selectmen for sponsoring the article, and was pleased that they took the initiative to prohibit this. He said he personally believed that the slippery slope of marijuana has gone far enough in Dedham, noting the progression from it being decriminalized, allowing medical marijuana establishments, and now retail sale of marijuana. He said he would be very proud if Dedham became a “dry” town.

Mr. Aldous agreed with Mr. Podolski. He had a concern about the movement to shut off taxes from the towns that ban the sale of recreational marijuana. Mr. Podolski said that if Dedham does not allow its sale, the Town would probably be unable to get any local taxation on it, and would lose any so-called economic opportunity for taxes. However, he stated that this would not be an incentive for him. He believed that the higher it is taxed, the more it would motivate illegal sale of it. He believed this is becoming the case in Colorado. There would be State taxation, but he was not sure if Dedham would share in that. He did note that liquor taxes are shared.

Mr. Steeves said that Dedham is a town that is bordered by a city. He believed that Dedham should stay a town and let people in the city stay there and do their business there. He said he did not want this in Dedham.

Mr. Bethoney called for public comment, but there was none.

Mr. Bethoney also commended the Board of Selectmen for being proactive. He agreed with the Board that he did not want recreational marijuana sold in Dedham regardless of any potential revenue. He said he would vote to recommend this article at Town Meeting.

Mr. Podolski moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Steeves. The vote was unanimous at 5-0. Mr. Podolski moved to recommend that Article 8 be adopted by Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Steeves. The vote was unanimous at 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Aldous, Clerk

/snw