



DRAFT
Marijuana Study Group

Date: September 1, 2020
Time: 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Location: Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Present: Sarah Augood, Adam Chapdelaine, Len Diggins, Doug Heim, Sean Kiernan, Natasha Waden, Jordan Weinstein Erin Zwirko.

Erin opened the meeting by reading the preamble to hosting a virtual meeting. She noted that the meeting is being recorded.

Erin provided an overview of the timeline for process and review by the Select Board, and opened the discussion on the two applications under consideration by the Board.

The Study Group had the following comments on The Human Connection's application:

1. Overall, the Study Group appreciated that the application is coming from an Arlington resident and found that the application was tailored to the community in terms of address abutting communities that allow adult use embellishments and consideration of traffic.
2. The Human Connection provided two options for a retail establishment: 369 Massachusetts Avenue and 23-35 Massachusetts Avenue, with the latter their preferred location. The Study Group noted that 369 Massachusetts Avenue is in a B2 district where retail establishments are not allowed.
3. Regarding 23-35 Massachusetts Avenue, it is not clear in the application which building the proposed establishment would be located in. Additionally, because of this, it was difficult for the Study Group to assess whether the location actually conforms with the 2,000-foot density buffer, which is measured property line to property line. The Study Group noted that the Eskar establishment on Broadway could be within 2,000 feet. This requirement cannot be waived.
4. The chosen name of the business venture shortens to THC, which is also the abbreviation of tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive compound of cannabis. The Study Group questioned whether the Cannabis Control Commission would allow such a name due to the prohibition of utilizing the colloquial references to cannabis and marijuana in the business name and logo (935 CMR 500.105(4)(a)(1)).

5. The APD representation on the Study Group noted that the applicant should be prepared to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding responsibilities of the applicant as it relates to public safety and traffic.
6. The Study Group noted that the start-up costs identified in the application seem low in comparison to the other application reviewed and those reviewed in 2019. The application also did not appear to factor in the permitting timeline of the Redevelopment Board and the Board of Health.

The Study Group had the following comments on Calyx Peak's application:

1. The Study Group noted that Calyx Peak had applied in 2019, and since that application, the company's experience in Massachusetts has been further developed through the permitting of a cultivation facility in Worcester and discussions of a retail store in Swampscott. The applicant should provide an update of those Massachusetts ventures as well as its other ventures in the US.
2. As in 2019, the Study Group noted that Calyx Peak does not recommend usage of marijuana products by adults under the age of 25. Although appreciative of this recommendation and commitment to not advertise to adults ages 21 to 25, the Study Group questioned whether the business can prevent sales to these younger adults without being in conflict with state law or hindering their business model.
3. The Study Group noted that the proposed location is outside of any regulatory buffers of the Zoning Bylaw.
4. The Study Group noted that applicant has the opportunity to build a new structure and design a parking lot for maximum efficiency on this site. However, the Study Group also noted that the Summer Street location is not ideal, in particular its proximity to a lighted intersection and limited public transportation options.
5. The APD representation on the Study Group noted that the applicant should be prepared to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding responsibilities of the applicant as it relates to public safety and traffic.
6. The Study Group appreciated the detailed information on security, product tracking, and inventory diversion.

After some discussion regarding the minutes from May 2019, the Study Group unanimously approved the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.