



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Zoning and Planning Office

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PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Town Hall – 7 Summer Street

****This initial draft is intended for open meeting law compliance; a more detailed version may replace this draft after Commission review.**

Members Present: Sheila Jacobs, Eileen London, Sonny Holt, Camden Walters, Jeff Grout

Municipal Staff: None

Public Attendees: Donna Olson, Joseph Bertrand

1. **Call to Order:** Sonny called the Meeting to order at 6:31 pm
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Jeff motioned to approve, Sheila 2nd. Approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of May 3, 2022 Special PLANNING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes:** Jeff moved to approve the Minutes. Sheila seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. **New Business**

(5A) Discussion on lessons learned by Planning Commission members, Eileen London, Jeff Grout and Sonny Holt, who attended the Training on Cannabis Regulations from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns with the Vermont Cannabis Control Board.

General discussion included the following:

There are 6 types of permits: Cultivation, Testing Labs and Integrated (which combines Cultivation and testing) - these are currently open for permit applications; Manufacturing - will be open July/Aug; Wholesale- will be open July Aug; and Retail (only operation that is permitted to sell to the public) - open Sept/Oct. Must be 21 to purchase or be employed by licensed establishment and there is no public consumption allowed (similar to alcohol.)

The state will highly regulate the cannabis licensing approval process with strict guidelines and there is no need for the Town of Randolph to add more requirements. However, Sonny noted that as a minimum, Randolph's Land Use Regulations will have to be changed to comply with the State requirement that no Cannabis Retail Sales will be permitted within 500 feet of School properties.

The State does all the leg work and permitting and will notify the town if and when a permit is filed, but it was not clear exactly how this would happen, or who would get notified - Town manager, town clerk, Zoning Administrator?

There was informal agreement by all commission members to strongly support designating a local cannabis commission. It is also likely that all approved licenses will be available on line, but not sure if this would be public information or if special permissions would be required to access.

A question arose as to whether the Sheriff should be on the commission.

(5B) Further discussion on the makeup of Randolph’s Cannabis Control Commission and that commission’s specific responsibilities and authority.

Combining the Cannabis Commission with the Liquor Control Board, possibly with the same people and process was discussed. Members of the local Cannabis Control Commission do not need to be current members of local governments. Specific responsibilities and authority will need further investigation.

(5C) Discussion of farm animals within Randolph’s residential district.

Joe Bertrand a resident of Randolph, stated that this is a local issue in his neighborhood but is really a town issue. Joe brought photos and said that the issue in his neighborhood is out of control with no guidance. Odors and noise are constant. His main concern is with the number of chickens owned by his neighbor as well as other farm animals. He was concerned that it effects property values, public safety, health and welfare. The property is in the Randolph Village High Density District so regulation in this zone might be prudent.

Sonny provided and read a legal response he obtained from Kail Romanoff an Attorney from the Municipal Assistance Center, Vermont League of Cities & Towns.

Towns may regulate domestic animals (cows, pigs, fowl, etc.) pursuant to their authority to regulate nuisances - 24 V.S.A. § 2291(14) which says “(f)or the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following powers: ... (14) (t)o define what constitutes a public nuisance, and to provide procedures and take action for its abatement or removal as the public health, safety, or welfare may require.”). Using this authority, the town could adopt an ordinance that regulates domestic animals such as chickens by declaring the aspect of concern as a public nuisance and amend or adopt an ordinance accordingly that address that nuisance. Many towns use this authority to regulate animals at large but is less common in regards to chickens. Kail Romanoff found a backyard chicken ordinance from So. Burlington which limits the number of chickens to 6 per lot. Sonny said he would obtain a copy of that ordinance.

The Planning Commission will take this under advisement and research for the next meeting.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjournment:

Camden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheila 2nd. The motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

The Planning Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeff Grout

Randolph Planning Commission Secretary