Town of Fryeburg Maine Planning Board

Public Hearing on Land Use Ordinance Changes – Adult Use Marijuana

April 6, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Hastings Community Center

Emery call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Price describes proposed changes. Tom Klinepter asked if the PB consulted MMA attorneys regarding the 1,000 foot setback differences between medical and adult use pertaining to special purpose schools. No. Steven Chase/Jim Truell wondered if businesses would be evicted to make room for marijuana tentants. Sherry Billings stated she was against adult use retail in town. What kind of tourists are we inviting? She mentioned a town in the Netherlands that was disappointed with the result of legalization, such as lack of parking and hard drug dealers coercing the pot buyers. She also worried about her property value and that the town should be known for the Academy, not marijuana. This discussion shifted to co-located medical/adult use establishments. The proposed ordinance prohibits in the same building. The state law says location or facility. There was also discussion of the limit of 5 and speculation as to whether existing medical retail stores would switch to adult use. Dan Tepe suggested the $1,500 select board permit is too expensive for small growers and we should consider a tiered pricing structure. Tom Klinepeter suggested that $1,500 was not enough. Rebmann rebutted Sherry Billings’ comment about rowdy river users – noting the bad actors are usually drinking, not smoking. Additional discussion was devoted to the apparent loophole in the ordinance which prevents a marijuana establishment from locating near a church, but not vice-versa.

Emery closed the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

The board continued to discuss. Price made a motion to approve the proposed changes and present to the town for a vote. Rebmann seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Meeting concluded at 8:34 p.m.