

Zoning By-Law Review Committee Minutes, December 30, 2013

Present: Pat Doherty, Shirley Smith, and Mike Gleason of the Milford Daily News

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM. Pat made a motion to approve the minutes from December 12, 2013. Shirley stepped down to second the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Annual Report

The committee reviewed the Annual Report for 2013 that listed the year's accomplishments. Since the selectmen may change the February, 2014 date of a Special Town Meeting devoted solely to zoning by-laws, the committee decided to substitute "upcoming" for "February." Pat pointed out one inconsistency and that was corrected.

105 CMR 725.000, MA Dept. of Public Health

Shirley had carefully reviewed this 45 page document of requirements and regulations for Medical Marijuana Facilities. At the last meeting there was concern over the section of the regulations that allowed hardship cultivation of marijuana for medical use for patients who lived a long distance from a facility. Shirley questioned the possibility of prohibiting hardship cultivation in Mendon if a facility were to be located nearby in Milford and/or Franklin. After reading the MDPH requirements, however, it was learned that the hardship also included financial hardship, inability to drive, and lack of a facility that would deliver the marijuana to the patient's home address. Several pages of the document, Section 725.035, spelled out the requirements for hardship cultivation and it was decided to reference that section in the Mendon by-law.

Security Requirements and Other Additions to the By-Law

Five additional security requirements as set forth in Section 105 CMR 725.110 were included in the By-Law. A requirement for Site Plan Review, square footage to include the area used for cultivation of marijuana, hours of operation to include dispatch of home deliveries and a 20 square foot limit on the size of the facility's sign were also added amended to the by-law. There was the possibility of the Planning Board charging the facility a municipal impact fee as in Bellingham.

Overlay District By-Law

Parcels 78, 82 and 84 had been considered as a possible location for Overlay District should the Planning Board choose that option. These lots on the Bellingham Town Line were occupied by Copart, a business that sells used car parts. Pat thought this fenced in location might prove to be attractive to someone seeking a site for a facility and the committee should look for alternate locations. Shirley thought this was a good point and agreed with Pat's assessment.

Pat made a motion to adjourn and Shirley stepped down and seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Smith

