



# TOWN OF ACUSHNET

## MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD  
122 MAIN ST.  
ACUSHNET, MA 02743  
<http://www.acushnet.ma.us>  
FAX: (508)998-0203

### June 5, 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Request

Selectmen,

The Acushnet Planning Board intends to request an amendment to the Town By-Laws (Zoning) at the Spring Town Meeting. Specifically, the amendment sought is described below:

*ARTICLE XX.* To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Acushnet by replacing in its entirety Section 3.9, to read as follows:

Section 3.9, Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers

Section A. PURPOSE

By vote at the State election on November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes. The law provides that it is effective on December 15, 2016 and the Cannabis Advisory Board is required to issue regulations regarding implementation by September 15, 2017.

Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers are not a permitted use in the Town and any regulations promulgated by the State Cannabis Advisory Board are expected to provide guidance to the Town in regulating Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers. Further, the ballot measure establishes two important provisions that require ballot action by the town prior to the adoption of zoning. First, the town must, by ballot, determine whether it will issue licenses for Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and second, by ballot that cannot occur prior to November 6, 2018, the next biennial state election, on whether to allow on-site consumption of marijuana products should the town decide to allow licenses for such facilities.

The regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers raise novel and complex legal, planning, and public safety issues and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and address such novel and complex issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and other uses related to the regulation of recreational marijuana. The Town intends to adopt a temporary

moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers so as to allow the Town sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to adopt provisions of the Zoning Bylaw in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

#### Section B. DEFINITION

"Manufacture", to compound, blend, extract, infuse or otherwise make or prepare a marijuana product.

"Marijuana accessories", equipment, products, devices or materials of any kind that are intended or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body.

"Marijuana cultivator", an entity licensed to cultivate, process and package marijuana, to deliver marijuana to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

"Marijuana establishment", a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business. (k) "Marijuana product manufacturer", an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process and package marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

"Marijuana products", products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

"Marijuana testing facility", an entity licensed to test marijuana and marijuana products, including certification for potency and the presence of contaminants.

"Marijuana retailer", an entity licensed to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana establishments and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to consumers.

#### Section C. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2019. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, consider the Cannabis Advisory Board regulations regarding Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and related uses, determine whether the town shall restrict any, or all, licenses for Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers, determine whether the town will prohibit on-site consumption at Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and shall consider adopting new provisions of the Zoning Bylaw to address the

impact and operation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and Marijuana Retailers and related uses,

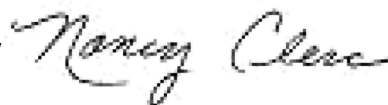
or to take any action relative thereto, and further that nonsubstantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Bylaws of Acushnet.

The Planning Board will hold a public meeting on March 23, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Planning Board meeting room. We invite any interested members to attend.

Sincerely,

Marc Cenerizio  
Chairman, Acushnet Planning Board

Received by Town Clerk on March 7, 2017 @ 2:13 p.m. by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Clark".