

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Citizen Petitions Articles

Section III – Questions with Response Boxes – To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article #29	Date Form Completed:3/18/2021
Article Title: Amend Zoning By-Laws to Create Residential Buffer Zones Regarding Licensed Marijuana Retailer Establishments under Section III-K.2: Adult Use Marijuana Establishments	
Sponsor Name: Martha Paynter	Email: mpaynter123@gmail.com

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it is intended to be voted on by the Finance Committee.
Response	<p>Move that the Town vote to amend Zoning Bylaws Section III-K.2: Adult Use Marijuana Establishments under Section 5. Place. to insert as 5.4 and renumber everything following: <i>"No Licensed Marijuana Retailer Establishment shall be located within three hundred (300) feet of a Town of Natick boundary line, or residential zoned property. The distance shall be measured in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures, from the nearest exterior wall of the Licensed Marijuana Retailer Establishment facility, or accessory structure associated with said use, to the nearest Town of Natick boundary line or property boundary line of residential zoned property,"</i> or otherwise act thereon. See attached document A.</p>
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	<p>To see if the Town will vote to create a 300-foot residential buffer zone to provide for the placement of Licensed Marijuana Retailer Establishments in suitable locations, to minimize adverse impacts of said Establishments on residential neighborhoods and streets, where children congregate, live and play; by regulating the siting, design, placement, and security of Licensed Marijuana Retailer Establishments.</p> <p>To bring consistency and alignment with existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries 300-foot residential buffer zone bylaw for the protection of impacted abutting residential neighborhoods and their children.</p>
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	The sponsor is a representative resident of a neighborhood that would be adversely impacted by siting of Retail Marijuana Establishment. Positive action on the motion will eliminate the negative impacts to all abutting Natick residential neighborhoods and children; and bring

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	<p>consistency and alignment with existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries 300-foot residential buffer zone bylaw.</p> <p>Note: Sponsor (and Jennings/Morses Pond Neighborhood Working) has no affiliation with, or financial interest in, any Retail Marijuana Establishments.</p>
4	Describe with some specificity how the sponsor envisions how: the benefits will be realized; the problem will be solved; the community at large will gain value in the outcome through the accompanied motion?
Response	The proposed motion brings Retail Marijuana Establishments into conformity with an existing bylaw that mandates a 300-foot residential buffer zone around Medical Marijuana Dispensaries that the Town of Natick both sponsored and enacted. Natick can still achieve the benefit of two retail marijuana establishments with attendant revenue <i>and</i> preserve the character, social structure, health, and safety of abutting residential neighborhoods. See attached document B.
5	How does the proposed motion (and implementation) fit with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plan, comprehensive plan, and community values as well as relevant state laws and regulations
Response	<p>Relevant Town Bylaws: The proposed motion brings Retail Marijuana Establishments into conformity with an existing bylaw that mandates a 300-foot residential buffer zone around Medical Marijuana Dispensaries that the Town of Natick both sponsored and enacted: <i>“The premises in which the proposed adult use is to take place is located at a distance of at least three hundred (300’) feet from: the Town boundary line <u>or a residential district zone boundary line...</u>”</i> See attached document C.</p> <p>Financial and Capital Plan: Additionally, by enacting Article 29, Natick can still achieve the benefit of two retail marijuana establishments with attendant revenue <i>and</i> preserve the character, social structure, health, and safety of abutting residential neighborhoods. See attached document B.</p> <p>Community Values around Neighborhoods Health, Safety and Social Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached document B • Natick 2030 Visioning • Planning Board Special Permit Requirements • Select Board Mission Statement <p>Relevant State Laws and Regulations - The Commonwealth mandates that retail marijuana establishments be 500 feet away from designated areas such as schools, playgrounds etc. but leaves it to cities and towns to enact additional buffer zone requirements.</p>

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6	<p>Have you considered and assessed, qualified and quantified the various impacts to the community such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, et c.) ● Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.); ● Environment and green issues (energy conservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);
Response	<p>Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, etc.) – See attached document B Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.) – See attached document B Environment (encouraging walking and biking, etc.) – See attached document B</p>
7	<p>Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion? To this point what efforts have been made to involve those participants who may be accountable, responsible, consulted or just advised/informed on the impacts of executing the motion?</p>
Response	<p>Critical participants are Select Board, Planning Board, FinCom, Office of Community & Economic Development and Retail Marijuana Establishment Respondents. We have communicated our concerns and intentions at Select Board meetings, Community Outreach meetings and Respondents, and have been regular touch with Community & Economic Development Director, James Freas and Executive Planning Assistant, Ann E. Greel about our Spring 2021 Town Meeting motion.</p>
8	<p>What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process, that ● Appropriate town Boards & Committees were consulted ● Required public hearings were held
Response	<p>Interested Parties – we have communicated regularly with impacted neighborhood residents, invited them to meetings, and kept them informed. We have attended Select Board meetings, Community Outreach meetings, had conversations with Retail Marijuana Establishment Respondents, and kept in contact with Community & Economic Development Director, James Freas. Required Public Hearings – We are participating in Planning Board and FinCom hearings.</p>
9	<p>Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?</p>
Response	<p>Motion is required for: 1) consistency and alignment with existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries 300-foot residential</p>

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	buffer zone bylaw; and 2) for the protection of (sponsor as representative of) impacted abutting residential neighborhoods and their children.
10	Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?
Response	N/A
11	What are other towns and communities in the Metro West area, or the Commonwealth of MA doing similar to what your motion seeks to accomplish
Response	See attached document B.
12	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences.
Response	See attached document B. If the motion doesn't pass: 1) It will represent inconsistent policy with regard to the existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries 300-foot residential buffer zone bylaw , and 2) Retail Marijuana Establishments abutting residential neighborhoods will have a significant, negative impact on traffic, nuisance, safety.