Ad Hoc Marijuana Committee
Minutes – October 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm.

Roll Call

Members present were: Karen Farber, Andy Jones, Claudia King, and Amy Lamontagne.

Item 1 – Approve Minutes of September 19 Meeting

Karen motioned and Claudia seconded with all in favor 3-0.

Item 2 – Special Guest – Justin Brown, Code Enforcement Officer

The committee reviewed their Sept. 14 meeting questions with Justin and discussed the current zoning map. Andy asked Justin about retail marijuana home occupations – what is the burden on Codes as far as inspections? Justin explained that home occupations need Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approval. Justin provided home occupation scenarios and the committee discussed the possibility of banning home occupation uses. There was additional discussion about retail manufacturing vs. home occupation. Everyone agreed that the BZA shouldn't be put in the middle of making a decision about retail marijuana as part of home occupation.

Karen asked Justin about farming operations. Could a Backyard Farms type business operate in Falmouth? The answer is "yes." Farming is allowed on a 10-acre parcel and a commercial farm could be set-up but would need Planning Board approval. The Planning Board could limit size, setbacks, etc.

The committee also discussed Light Manufacturing. Although a marijuana growing operation could occur in the Farm and Forest zone, Claudia suggested only allowing it in a Light Manufacturing Zone. Karen asked Justin the difference between a Farm Stand and Community Farming. Justin explained that Farm Stands do not need site plan review.

There was also a brief discussion about marijuana testing labs and locating them in the BP Zone.

Item 4 – Other Business

The next meeting is October 16. The committee decided to use that meeting to plan their report to the Town Council – scheduled for November 13. Amy will miss the next meeting but will inquire about staff support to assist the committee.

Item 5 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.