

EDGECOMB PLANNING BOARD
EDGECOMB ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR JOINT MEETING, OCTOBER 5, 2017

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jack French called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members present were Dave Boucher, Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson, Sue Carlson, Jack French, Barry Hathorne, Pat Jeremiah, David Nutt and Skip White. Barb Gibson was absent. A quorum of both the Planning Board and Ordinance Review Committee was present.

3. Approval of the August 17, 2017 Planning Board meeting minutes

David Nutt moved to approve the minutes. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Discussion regarding marijuana ordinance or moratorium

Sue Pilgrim, MMA, had recommended two alternatives to the board. Because the State's moratorium on the sale of marijuana expires in February, a six-month moratorium voted by the Edgcomb now or in the near future would give the ORC time to consider the State's actions and propose an ordinance to be voted on at the annual town meeting in May. A second alternative would be to pass an ordinance banning all sales of marijuana and after the State makes its decision in February, the town could pass amendments to its ordinance allowing what licenses it deemed necessary or advisable. She said these alternatives will protect the town.

Sue Carlson spoke on the benefits of medical marijuana for the elderly and she had no objections if carefully used. David Nutt said marijuana is now sold in all towns, it's unregulated, it's untaxed, and its income is untaxed. If recreational marijuana is legalized in Maine, towns would begin to get control of all the negatives of it. He said it was important that Edgcomb participate in the legalization process. Barry Hathorne said the selectmen had told him to write an ordinance for a dry town. Although a recent postcard survey indicated a majority of those responding were against legalization of growing, manufacturing, retail sales and social clubs, David Nutt said a previous binding referendum showed a majority were in favor of legalizing marijuana. He added that there has to be testing and standardization.

Jack French suggested that Edgcomb be ready with an ordinance when the State moratorium expires, as it appears that the State is delegating regulation to the towns. Skip White recommended being restrictive to start and when the State passes its version, Edgcomb can lift or keep restrictions as the Town deems appropriate.

The group discussed the next steps, whether to have a written vote before the annual town meeting as suggested by the Town Clerk or having an open discussion at the town meeting with written ballots for the five ordinances.

Jack French recommended drafting an ordinance for each item and holding forums with public speakers. A complete ordinance for each item listing hours, traffic, enforcement, etc. would be necessary. Jack French said it would be necessary to pass a moratorium or an ordinance before February 18. David Nutt suggested that if social clubs are allowed, they should be limited to the same area as adult entertainment establishments.

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

Barry Hathorne moved to adjourn at 8 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.