



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 3rd, 2018
Acton-Boxborough Regional
High School Room 104E 6:30 pm

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Members in Attendance: Steve Noone, Jason Cole, Mike Majors, Jeff Bergart, Christi Andersen, Tom Farley, Christine Russell, Sahana Purohit (associate)

Absent: Dave Wellinghoff, Roland Bourdon

Other: Stephen Barrett Director of Finance, Town of Acton

Called to order at: 6:30

Article 1 Reconsideration

In response to a question at the November 27th meeting, it was reported that the town package stores each have an average of 416 customers/day.

Christi Andersen made a motion to reconsider the committee's recommendation on Article 1. Jeff Bergart seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 (Tom Farley, Christine Russell, Jeff Bergart, Christi Andersen, and Jason Cole) to 2 (Mike Majors and Steve Noone).

The ensuing discussion centered on whether additional research about existing local real estate value changes was enough to make an educated financial recommendation. The argument for a recommendation one way or another focused on an analysis of the last two year's real estate value changes for nearby towns with licensed non-medical retail marijuana stores. The towns of Leicester in Worcester County and Hudson in Middlesex county were used as examples. The argument against making a financially based recommendation was based on the two cited towns both not being similar enough to Acton and there not being a sufficient history of data to use. The discussion then returned to arguments from the November 27th

meeting of how much cost will be borne by the town simply by having retail shops in nearby towns versus the unknown additional costs including a potential drop in real estate values in a town that people move to specifically for the school system.

Not Recommend Article 1

Christine Russell moved that the committee Not Recommend Article 1. Jeff Bergart seconded the motion.

The motion did not pass with 3 voting for it (Jason Cole, Christi Andersen, and Christine Russell) and 3 against it (Steve Noone, Tom Farley, and Mike Majors). Jeff Bergart abstained.

Recommend Article 1

Mike Majors moved that the committee Recommend Article 1. Steve Noone seconded the motion.

The motion did not pass with 2 voting for it (Steve Noone and Mike Majors) and 4 voting against it (Jason Cole, Christine Russell, Christi Andersen, Tom Farley). Jeff Bergart abstained.

No Recommendation on Article 1

Steve Noone moved that the committee give No Recommendation on Article 1. Tom Farley seconded the motion.

The motion passed with 4 votes for it (Steve Noone, Jeff Bergart, Tom Farley, and Mike Majors) and 3 votes against it (Christine Russell, Jason Cole, and Christi Andersen)

Meeting adjourned at the end of Town Meeting at 9:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christi Andersen
Finance Committee Clerk