

# Cannabis subcommittee report for agenda

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The current cannabis subcommittee planned and executed the successful Town Hall which took place on January 25th at the Rodda Center, with more than 100 attendees in person and online, marking the first such event held by the township in several years. Thank you again to Dean, Tom Rowe, Doug, Ronn Goodman, MIS, and the panelists and participants for all of the hard work that went into planning and executing the event. There were presentations from Ron Mondello, a cannabis attorney who has worked with municipalities throughout NJ, representatives from Teaneck High School / Board of Education, as well as three of the cannabis license holders that had been given resolutions in support by the prior council. Attendees were reminded that the sale of recreational cannabis was approved by voters statewide in a 2020 referendum with a 70%-30% margin of support in Teaneck, that the former council chose to opt in to all varieties of cannabis businesses available under state law with no limit on the number of licenses, enacted an ordinance allowing cannabis businesses in the Alfred Avenue light industrial zone and granted resolutions of support to several cannabis businesses. Participants were able to ask questions and express their thoughts about cannabis, with responses from the panel that also included Chief of Police Andrew McGurr and Health Officer Courtney Sartain.

Additionally, a google doc survey was created by the cannabis subcommittee and shared with residents. Several hundred people submitted their responses and the results are still being collected and reviewed by the subcommittee. The feedback we have received from the town hall, the survey, comments at good and welfare, conversations and emails from residents and stakeholders, as well as consultation with experts including our planner and the exploration of retaining legal counsel will all be used to determine next steps.

The next steps are two-fold, first and foremost will be the development of a formal process: an application process, a checklist and updating our ordinance, as well as the consideration of establishment of a cannabis advisory board, all of which will be done with public input. Additionally, we have asked the attorney to draft an ordinance to limit public consumption of cannabis in public spaces.

Simultaneously, we are working with the Planner and the Zoning Subcommittee to evaluate the potential expansion of zoning for retail dispensaries, cultivation, manufacturing, and testing. In doing so, especially for the possibility of retail dispensaries, we are evaluating the proper distance from schools. No specific locations outside of Alfred Avenue are being discussed or considered. No zoning expansion or any further action will be taken prior to the retention of a cannabis attorney with the competence to advise the council about the underlying issues.

All residents should feel comfortable knowing that we are taking this process seriously, and will be doing it properly

Please include on agenda.

Thanks  
Hillary  
Sent from my iPhone

Attachment: 2-14-23 cannabis subcte update (7704 : Cannabis Subcommittee)