

Urgent: Proposed Kittery Cannabis Ordinance

Indico Care <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2/25/2021 10:40 AM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: Mitchell Delaney <[REDACTED]>; John Arnold <[REDACTED]>;

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello,

I'm writing an open letter to the town council and town planners with significant concerns about the proposed adult-use cannabis ordinance. As an existing medical cannabis business owner in the town of Kittery I am extremely concerned in regards to the proposed law and fervently urge the town to vote NO. This ordinance is * a bad deal* for the town of Kittery as a whole and we believe more time and consideration are required to enact any future legislation that could at best disrupt the medical cannabis industry and at worst eliminate patient's access to affordable medication. We believe it would be a devastating disservice to the Kittery community should this bill be passed.

What the citizens of Kittery must understand is the national market share Kittery would have should they elect to allow adult use stores to open. According to the Maine Turnpike Authority, more than 90 million people used the turnpike in 2019. The influx in traffic would be the first glaring issue this ordinance would encounter with Kittery being the first stop on the turnpike. We believe that the proposed stores should be zoned only in areas designed to withstand high vehicular traffic during peak times of the year. Roughly 3900 people work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The daily commute already exceeds Kittery's capacity. We also No variances of proposed shops, outside of C1, should ever be considered regardless of corporate success or promises of potential "Starbucks status". Any company that makes these claims should understand that the people of Kittery are generally not drawn to franchises that ultimately destroy Mom and Pop community driven businesses.

Our next concern in regards to the proposed ordinance is the lack of consciousness in exposing the children of Kittery to the adult-use cannabis market. The proposed setbacks should have a minimum of 1,000 yard buffer zone from any business that involves children and/or childcare.

The next item that requires examination is the number of licenses being proposed. Only making 5 licenses available will never work. As we saw with the city of Portland who tried to restrict the number of licenses and attempted to implement a merit system and a cap on the number of licenses issued, the ordinance could not stand up to expensive lawyers with out-of-state financial aid. We believe the number of licenses should be determined by strong zoning ordinance rather than the first come first serve format. Restricting Kittery to 5 shops is counter-productive and implies to us that the town's vision of growth is grossly short-sighted. The proposed ordinance would also only allow for a 1,000 square foot showroom/sales floor allowing for a total of 5000 sq. ft. sales floors for all of Kittery. We understand the complex financial benefits that adult-use cannabis *could* bring in, but how many retail jobs *would* actually be created? We are seeing many vacancies on Route 1, and we all understand that traditional retail/outlet retail is being swallowed up by online business (ie Walmart, Amazon). This pandemic has only accelerated the decline of traditional retail. We believe the town would benefit in more ways than one by allowing more room for future discussion. We recommend the town also explore more ways to generate additional income on the licencing fees. These fees could potentially cover any cost incurred due to proposed cannabis ordinances.

We ask the town to include members of Kittery's medical cannabis community in the process of planning any future ordinances that are of any relevance to cannabis, adult or medical. We understand the state and the town view the medical program and adult-use program as two separate industry, but at the end of the day we sell the same product and answer to the Office of Marijuana Policy. Wouldn't you want there to be a liaison that could provide insight to an established market that has actual data and opinions formed by experience? To not include the people bearing foresight, experience, and compassion to move forward into the legal medical market would be a tragic waste of retail cannabis knowledge.

In conclusion, we as citizens of Kittery need to ask ourselves why? Why are we doing this? Will 5 licenses benefit Kittery as a whole, or will we do what is right and invest in an ordinance that will truly stand the test of time? Please stand with the residents of Kittery and vote no. We implore you to support your residents and not the 5 companies that stand to benefit from such a soft and ill-advised ordinance.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Delaney
Indico Owner/President/CEO

Re: Badger's Island

Angela Matthews <[REDACTED]>

Tue 3/2/2021 3:31 PM

To: Kristi.Mathieson@legislature.maine.gov <Kristi.Mathieson@legislature.maine.gov>; Michele.Meyer@legislature.maine.gov <Michele.Meyer@legislature.maine.gov>; Mark.Lawrence@legislature.maine.gov <Mark.Lawrence@legislature.maine.gov>; town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: JerriAnne Boggis <[REDACTED]>; Valerie <[REDACTED]>; Britton, Dennis <[REDACTED]>; Denise Pouliot <[REDACTED]>;

Dear legislators and members of town council:

It turns out I had incorrect information. The information about Joseph Badger is correct. But Badger's Island is named for William Badger, a shipbuilder in his own right here in the Seacoast. From what I can tell there is no connection between the two Badgers. I am grateful to the individuals who pointed out the confusion and I apologize to you for inadvertently taking your time.

Angela Matthews

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 1:44 PM Angela Matthews <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I am not sure where the responsibility lies for addressing my concern so I am sending this to the Kittery Town Council, Maine State Representatives and Senator for Kittery, as well as Governor Mills. I have blind copied an additional 17 residents of Kittery whom I know. I chose to blind copy them because I have not asked their permission to be included nor do I wish to assume that they would share my concern. But because I know them and they live in Kittery I wanted to let them know.

I have openly copied Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail of NH JerriAnne Boggis, Portsmouth Historian of African American History Valerie Cunningham, Chair of the BHTNH Board Dennis Britton, and American Indigenous Woman Denise Pouliot because they are aware of and in support of my concern.

Attached is a letter I have sent to the Portsmouth Herald proposing that the name of Badger's Island be changed. The island is, in name, a monument to Joseph Badger who made his fortune in the slave trade. Please see that attached letter for more details.

I do not live in Kittery or other Maine town, but I wanted to make you aware of my concerns before sending this letter today to the Herald. It is my hope that it will stimulate the positive conversation and action needed to do the right thing. This is one of the ways in which we make reparations to our fellow African Americans who have a right for all to know a true history of the Seacoast. This action will also serve as a building block of inclusive communities.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and consider my concerns. I urge you to take steps to address this long-standing affront to our community and save us from our ignorance! Thank you,

Angela Matthews

(603) 254-6940

116 State Street, Portsmouth NH

Mailing Address

437 Locust Street, Rollinsford NH