



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: May 15, 2018

Dear Board: Please see following update for tonight's meeting.

Committee Appointments: Letters seeking interest in reappointment to various boards and committees are issuing this week. Bridget and Nancy prepared and I have begun review of a spreadsheet to accomplish this task. All current appointments "hold over" until the formal re-appointments occur. Having said that, the Downtown Vitality Committee has struggled with a quorum for a few months and I have appointed Herb Wheeler and Mary Holtorf as voting members of the DVC.

Marijuana Establishments – Host Community Agreements: As previously discussed with the Board, the Town has several entrepreneurs interested in siting cultivation, processing and even retail marijuana establishments in Town. Currently, I am working closely with Town Counsel to review requested HCAs from two potential cultivator/processor: (1) MassGrow at the former Union Twist Drill Co. site, and (2) 1620 Labs at the former Agway site. Neither of these operations/locations will include retail sales and we are drafting a template response. State law mandates no more than three percent of gross sales can be charged as an impact fee and that the funds received must relate to reasonable costs incurred by the Town. In other words, it cannot be a "tax" on the enterprise.

There is also a retail marijuana sales site proposed at the former Mr. Mike's Mobil at 243 Main Street. The new property owner has pulled a permit and removed the canopy and other out-buildings at this site in hopes of cleaning it up for potential retail sales. Both Town Counsel and I are researching HCAs regarding retail sales, but it is a new and evolving area. Same limits on mitigation fees apply. Separately, the Town did adopt the three percent local option excise (eg. sales tax) which will be collected and disbursed by the Commonwealth as a general fund revenue.

Miscellaneous:

- Held department head and pre-development team meetings; participated in Food-A-Thon
 - Attended Finance & Warrant Advisory Committee meeting for proposed FY19 budget review
 - Met with two potential pouring license applicants (Main Street Grill, Mahoney's Restaurant and Pub)
 - Worked with SEIU dispatch union and Chief Kleber to develop new dispatch shift schedule
 - Met with Town Planner and North Quabbin Community Coalition regarding re-start of revolving loan fund
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