



## **Committee on Community Resources and the Northampton City Council**

### Committee Members:

*Chair: Councilor Gina Louise Sciarra*

*Vice-Chair: Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell*

*Councilor Alisa F. Klein*

*Councilor James Nash*

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date: February 27, 2018**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Location: City Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts**

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call.** At 4:32 p.m., Chair Gina-Louise Sciarra called the meeting to order. Present were Councilors Sciarra, Dennis Bidwell and Jim Nash. Councilor Sciarra noted that Councilor Klein would be late.

Councilor Sciarra opened by stating that it had been a very sober day as they remembered a great man and his service (Representative Peter Kocot, who passed away February 22, 2018.)

She announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded for broadcast by Northampton Community Television.

2. **Public Comment**  
**Benjamin Spencer of 8 Rust Avenue** told members that Councilor Bidwell sent out an e-mail regarding the order to accept easements on Village Hill, including a drawing of the trails on Village Hill. He is very pleased to see that the paths were included as a part of the development and said he wanted to commend those who decided to keep the paths active.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
A. **Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2018**  
Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2018. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0.
4. **New Business**  
A. **18.030 Order to Accept an Easement at Village Hill - referred 2/1/2018 by City Council**  
Councilor Sciarra read the text of the order.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded.

Councilor Nash expressed his understanding that the trails are already in place at Village Hill and that the order is just formally accepting easements for walking paths already in place.

The paths north of the housing lots have historically been there for decades, Senior Planner Carolyn Misch confirmed. The idea of the Special Permit approved in 2003 was that there would be a continuous north/south connection of trails. The special permit formalized that connection and required certain improvements on a portion of the trails. This order makes them publicly accessible through a permanent easement.

Councilor Bidwell said he had asked for the order to be referred to committee so Village Hill folks would have a chance to be aware of it. He did hear from one other Village Hill resident, he advised. It is nice to see the project at this stage of development.

**The motion passed unanimously 3:0.**

There being no other new business, Councilor Sciarra announced a recess until 5 p.m. The board recessed at 4:41 p.m.

At 5 p.m., Councilor Sciarra reconvened the meeting, announcing that it was a public forum on recreational retail marijuana sales. Members introduced themselves. Councilor Klein arrived.

5. **Community Forum on Retail Marijuana Sales**

Presently, the Cannabis Control Commission is on the second day of policy deliberations on amendments to draft regulations released back in December, Councilor Sciarra reported. Yesterday they voted to postpone licensing of home delivery services and social consumption locations, she added. Regulations must be in place by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The public forum will begin with three brief presentations, then committee members will open up the floor to public comment, she explained. This committee will not be deliberating on zoning regulations or on the order to adopt a local option sales tax; rather, those items will be discussed in the Legislative Matters and Finance Committees.

**BOARD OF HEALTH PRESENTATION**

Joanne Levin, chair of the Northampton Board of Health (BOH), commented that, with retail marijuana being a new business, [legislators] have the opportunity to sort of 'get it right from the beginning' as opposed to things like cigarettes. She wanted to make comments in two sections:

Issues around zoning are urgent because zoning regulations have to be in place by April 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Levin reminded. If there are zoning issues not addressed in the pending zoning proposals, someone needs to move on these.

Regarding caps, since a majority of voters voted to legalize marijuana, she expressed her understanding that they are required to allow a certain number of retail establishments (specifically 4.3, a percentage of alcohol retailers). They have the liberty to decide that they don't want 10 pot shops on Main Street day one.

She thinks they do have the option to limit the number of institutions or the density, and time is of the essence, she stressed.

The second category of comments has to do with things not addressed by the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) draft regulations, she continued. The CCC has said that in all retail shops, people have to be 21 to enter, but in multi-use shops (mixed use establishments) people do not have to be over 21 to go in. It is not clear what type of establishment this could be and whether there is any limit to the type of establishment; i.e. – whether it could be a restaurant, t-shirt shop or toy store. She voiced the opinion that they should require someone to be 21 in order to enter.

Another issue the CCC did not address is mobile units. City officials don't allow food trucks; do they want a pot truck? She asked rhetorically. If someone comes up to a truck with a three-year old in tow, how do they control exposure to youth, she questioned.

She would like to see BOH approved education at every point of sale. Health representatives want to educate people about safe storage of pot, driving under the influence, etc. and make sure visitors know local rules and regulations.

An issue that is less obvious but that she feels fairly strongly about is public smoking. When she was young, cigarettes were everywhere: on primetime TV, billboards, airports, etc. It has taken fifty or sixty years of public health work to try to de-normalize smoking. They now have no smoking in restaurants, bars and city parks. She thinks the normalization of smoking is not good public health policy, she shared.

It sounds to her like they need a city ordinance to catch up on things the CCC did not include or that they would like local control over. She offered the services of Public Health Director Merredith O'Leary and a lawyer with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards as resources to write such regulations.

The goal is to offer adult use marijuana in the city safely, not disturbing or changing the character of downtown and preserving the health of the downtown, Ms. Levin concluded. She offered whatever help her board could give.

**NETA representative Leslie Laurie**, the founder and CEO of Tapestry Health for 40 years, introduced herself as the regional director and Director of Patient Services for NETA for the last three years. Over three years she thinks they have brought cutting-edge public health to Northampton. She introduced her colleague Amanda Rositano, NETA's Director of Operational Compliance and former chief of staff for Representative Smizik from Brookline, creator of all policies and procedures for NETA, and Kim Napoli, an attorney and Director of Diversity for NETA. Attorney Napoli was honored to be selected to be on the advisory board to the CCC, she related.

She has been with NETA from almost the beginning, before it opened in Northampton, Ms. Rositano volunteered. She was asked to speak about the implementation of medical marijuana regulations here in Northampton through the NETA facility. Medical marijuana was created as a result of a ballot question in 2012, she related. Regulations 105 CMR 725 were enacted through that ballot question and are at the core of how they operate as a business. NETA was among the first group of dispensaries licensed in Massachusetts and received the highest application score in that process. They are a mission-based organization that works to improve the health and well-being of Massachusetts registered medical marijuana patients. They are serving a little over 11,000 unique patients at NETA Northampton each year. Patients are very diverse in age, race, ethnicity, occupation and medical conditions. The youngest patient is 4 and the oldest is 98. The oldest patient in Brookline is 102, while the average age is 48.

It has been a remarkable experience to see how many people and how many conditions have been able to be helped through their services and their products.

The team is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with one of the founders being one of the first dispensary operators in Colorado and head of the Colorado industry association.

NETA Northampton was the second dispensary licensed in Massachusetts and the second to open. They are proud of its reputation and the relationships it has built in the community. All of their products are grown and manufactured in Franklin, MA and they also have a dispensary in Brookline with a full commercial kitchen. Workers produce over 130 treatment options. She is proud to say that NETA has the most innovative products in the industry because of its research and development arm, Molecular Infusions. The company employs about 300 employees; 60 of them here in Northampton. Technicians are cultivating a broad variety of strains and products to help patients with a variety of conditions, including tinctures, lotions and capsules.

NETA Cares is the philanthropic arm of NETA, expanding on its mission of improving lives and medical conditions. NETA staff and management participate and advocate for a number of different significant causes. Ms. Laurie passed out a handout highlighting some of that work.

Through the state licensing process, NETA works very closely with the city to ensure a smooth roll out and make sure that any concerns are addressed, Ms. Rositano continued. Representatives pride themselves on organizational values of operational compliance, responsibility and doing the right thing.

As medical marijuana regulations were promulgated, she was responsible for crafting a set of comprehensive policies and procedures for making sure NETA remains in compliance with state regulations, Ms. Rositano confirmed. The core of regulation is about the safety and security of patients, staff and the general public, which are of utmost importance to NETA. They don't spare any expense when it comes to safety and security. Security includes on-site security staff and extensive surveillance coverage. Only patients are authorized to enter the facility at this time.

Education is at the core of what they do; making sure that staff is well-trained to provide proper education to patients around the safe storage, responsible use and different kinds and strengths of cannabis products that might benefit the patient.

Product quality is central to what they do and a point of close oversight by regulators. All of their products are produced in house in Franklin and have to pass extensive lab testing prior to sale to any patients. Testing ensures that products are free from contaminants. They work very closely with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and are subject to regular unannounced inspections at all of their facilities. Through these inspections, NETA has really established a solid track record of compliance.

NETA representatives are proud of what they have been able to accomplish in Northampton and look forward to working closely with the city as recreational marijuana is rolled out, she concluded.

Attorney Kim Napoli briefly addressed the new regulations for recreational marijuana. She is a Cannabis Advisory Board member and Director of the Diversity program at NETA. In this role, she has had the

opportunity to work directly with the CCC and other advisory members to come up with regulations for the adult use market.

NETA intends to convert to an adult use establishment as well as to maintain its medical status, Attorney Napoli confirmed. The CCC must subsume DPH's role in the future. NETA intends to be as compliant as it always has been. With regard to the lack of clarity and certainty on certain features of recreational marijuana, NETA does not intend to engage in social consumption or home delivery. There really is a lot coming down the pike as far as adult use goes but NETA always intends to stay true to its mission statement and to be a compliance partner and leader in the industry. Patients come first for them. It is important for patients to have continued access to products and services.

She volunteered for people to contact her with concerns about the regulatory process.

#### **NORTHAMPTON PREVENTION COALITION/SPIFFY**

Ananda Lenox, coordinator for the Northampton Prevention Coalition (NPC), stressed that the prevention coalition is focused on reducing teen drug abuse rates. She proceeded to review some of the measures prevention advocates are hoping Northampton will adopt to reduce youth exposure to marijuana. She has really been happy with the distinction the CCC has made between adult use and youth use, she said.

The human brain develops until about the age of 25. Research has shown that addiction is primarily a developmental disease which means people are more likely to develop addiction if introduced to drugs at an earlier age. Alcohol and marijuana both affect academic success.

NPC members do a Prevention Needs Assessment every two years in which they survey 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Northampton High School, JFK Middle School and Smith Vocational School on substance use and other factors that contribute to academic success. In the most recent survey, 470 students were surveyed. She showed a chart of substances used regularly by teenagers. There are a lot of heavy hitters, but alcohol and marijuana are always two front runners. Cigarette use has dropped down significantly, she noted. This is the first time in at least 10 years that marijuana use has gotten close to alcohol use, she presented.

She showed a chart with a graphic depiction of trends in marijuana use, prescription drugs, etc. The senior class is the one they are most concerned with. There are little upticks in use every time a substance becomes more acceptable in the community, she noted. The majority of students are still smoking marijuana as opposed to other methods of ingestion. When a drug is seen as less harmful, they see that use rates do increase, she reported.

Ms. Lenox reviewed policies she claimed public health advocates observe can help reduce youth use:

- Capping outlet density
- Upholding state workplace safety laws regarding public smoking and making the laws enforceable
- Making all marijuana retailers - including mixed use establishments - 21 and older

She showed a list of organizations in support of outlet density capping. Public smoking and consumption is now not allowed per CCC regulations. However, right now Northampton has no true means of enforcing that regulation, she asserted. Police can cite people for public consumption and issue a ticket, but there is

no agency charged with enforcing payment, so most tickets just get thrown away, according to Police Chief Jody Kasper.

The CCC regulations are very clear about sales being for adult use only, and she is fully in favor of that. However, she identified mixed use retail as an area needing clarification and possibly some restrictions.

**Heather Warner, coordinator of the SPIFFY coalition**, informed committee members that, similar to NPC, the coalition collects data throughout the county, surveys students periodically and creates a culture where youth are supported to make healthy choices. She referred to a public health framework for legal marijuana developed in Colorado

She started in public health at the Holyoke Board of Health as the Tobacco Control Director and, as part of her position, wrote tobacco control regulations for the city. Holyoke was the first city in the state to have smoke-free restaurants, she related.

Health officials can educate young people and adults up and down, but until [legislators] create a policy that shifts the norm, they don't see such good results, she observed. She disagreed with the assertion that the marijuana industry is regulated like the alcohol industry. Unlike alcohol, marijuana retailers don't have a three-tiered system that separates retail from wholesale and manufacturing, there are no caps, and there is no local licensing. Only six forms of state ID for alcohol are accepted but, so far, in the regulations from the CCC, any federally-approved id is accepted. Unlike for alcohol, there are no pricing controls for marijuana, she maintained.

The fact that marijuana is not really regulated like alcohol and there is not local control is all the more reason there needs to be attention at the local level.

Ms. Warner reviewed public health goals to prevent youth use of marijuana, including:

- Education about risks to youth development
- Delay age of initiation
- Limiting access to products, marketing and advertising (by minimizing density and effective enforcement)

She referred to what other communities are doing, noting that, among other things, Amherst has implemented a cap of eight retailers and imposed a 300-foot buffer, and Easthampton has proposed a cap of nine and a buffer of 350 feet. South Hadley voted to approve a November ballot question to ban recreational marijuana altogether.

She encouraged the city to "go slow and get it right." Mistakes made from the outset are also potentially harmful to retailers by causing them to waste money on unnecessary investments, she suggested. She urged councilors to consider the public health implications for all decisions and to include public health professionals in the decision-making process. Specific suggestions are

- ❖ Dedicating funding for drug prevention, education and enforcement
- ❖ Caps or restrictions on outlet density
- ❖ Special permits and strong host agreements
- ❖ Advertising restrictions
- ❖ Adopting an ordinance for public use and a nuisance ordinance for odor

❖ Setting up effective enforcement systems

Councilor Sciarra opened the floor to public comment.

**Angela Cheek of 15 Crestview Drive, Florence** identified herself as the head of dispensary of NETA Northampton. She commented how proud she is, as the mother of teenagers, to be part of the organization. She has a medical condition which is how she got introduced to marijuana to begin with. She was able to come off opioids as a result of medical marijuana, and her children have witnessed her journey and seen the difference in her life after discontinuing opioid use. It is a priority of not just NETA but her personally to be sure youth access is as guarded as it possibly can be. She does not believe it is appropriate for children. She has worked with the parents of children and seen the result of using medical marijuana for seizure disorders and anxiety; using it for medicinal purposes has been really remarkable, she confirmed. She has a team of 60 people that she leads every day. It is vital at NETA that they can continue to lead and to make sure patients are cared for. She is very proud of what they do and is committed to making sure youth are protected, she assured.

**Northampton BOH member Cynthia Suopis of 120 Coles Meadow Road** thanked the city council and subcommittee members for taking the very first step as Northampton moves toward implementation of the new laws. She said she wanted to highlight Dr. Levin's comments, and she thinks Northampton has the opportunity to distinguish itself in the Commonwealth by building a series of policies and practice that reflect not only progressiveness but also its focus on health and safety.

Dr. Suopis presented several issues for consideration:

- ❖ The number of cannabis establishments the city is going to permit and where they're going to be
- ❖ How they are going to address recreational use in public
- ❖ Who will be responsible for enforcement and how it will be carried out
- ❖ How they are going to educate and involve citizens and youth

Dick Evans, who identified himself as a Northampton lawyer, chair of the SO4 campaign and supporter of legalization and normalization of cannabis, referred to another speaker's statement that cities and towns have no control over the industry. One often hears the term 'the new industry,' but he pointed out that marijuana is not really a new industry, it is a very old industry. What is new is the system of imposing controls over marijuana sales rather than leaving it to the underground.

The initiative passed by voters and ratified by the legislature last summer expressly opposes a lot of authority on the part of cities and towns to control the industry; in fact, it grants municipalities the ability to regulate the time, place and manner of licensed marijuana operations, he asserted. To suggest that cities and towns have no control is simply false.

He supports the notion of 'evidence-based' impacts. He urged the committee to look at hard evidence of the effect of legal marijuana on public health, public safety and the character of the community, etc., suggesting that they would find very little if they look at places where it has been legalized.

With regard to zoning, zoning laws regulate the use of land. They are not here to re-litigate the question of whether marijuana should be legal; the voters have spoken on that issue. They are here to determine how zoning laws should be revised if at all to protect the character of the community, he clarified.

There will be a merger of medical and non-medical marijuana at the end of year, he noted. He urged the committee to eliminate the concept of 'medical marijuana' since it will not be needed once medical and non-medical are merged and not to incorporate the term 'recreational,' since, "that's slang." The term recreational does not appear in the statute nor does it appear in the CCC regulations, he pointed out.

With regard to the regulation of establishments, the heavy lifting is being handled by the CCC itself. It is not a responsibility imposed on the city but local officials do have the right to exercise further control through zoning and host agreements. He urged them to fold this new industry into existing mainstream commerce in the community.

**Laurie Loisel of 46 Grant Avenue** agreed that communities have the ability to take some control but noted that if they don't take it, they won't have it. She thinks Heather is saying, 'Don't just wait for the CCC, do what's in your power to minimize the harm to youth.' Ananda and Heather are trying to minimize the possibility that young people will start thinking it isn't harmful because it *is* harmful to the developing brain. The Mayor kind of threw up his hands and didn't want to do anything, she remarked.

### DISCUSSION

Councilors asked questions and offered comments.

Jim Nash asked NETA representatives how they envisioned things changing in the way they presently do business.

NETA is hoping to open a retail establishment July 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Laurie responded. They will continue to offer individual counseling and educational handbooks. If the customer is buying adult use marijuana, he or she will pay a 3% tax; this will be the difference for adult use sales. The education, careful security and careful testing of all their products will continue, she assured.

Attorney Napoli agreed that practically there will be no difference. The same standard of operations will continue, but the bright-line difference will be whether a customer is paying a tax or not.

Councilor Nash asked if they are anticipating a rush.

Attorney Napoli said it realistically depends on how many establishments are opening up statewide. Yes, she would expect there to be more business and they will certainly plan for that. They will have an app to tell people if there is a line. They plan to have enough product to meet demand.

They work closely with the police, Ms. Laurie added.

Regarding safe storage, Ms. Rositano said they make sure that the product does not look like candy.

Councilor Nash asked about methods of packaging.

All packages are required to be plain, opaque and child-proof, Ms. Rositano confirmed. They do sell a chocolate bar and it is clearly labeled as a marijuana use product. It is placed in an exit bag that is child proof and patients are counseled on its use. There are many many measures already written into the regulations around packaging and safe storage. Any time they have a new product its packaging is reviewed by the BOH.

They were happy that all of the design packaging was done by a group in South Hadley, Ms. Laurie noted.

The BOH has requested some collaboration around storage, Ms. Warner advised. She thinks NETA is a wonderful concept and idea but she is not confident that every retailer will be that conscientious. She knows the regulations prohibit certain types of packaging but that doesn't mean that some packaging won't be attractive to youth. Not every place will have roots in Northampton and the knowledge base NETA has on the products.

With regard to public use and smoking, Councilor Bidwell asked about the status of the public smoking ban.

It is illegal to consume marijuana in public, Attorney Napoli confirmed.

Northampton currently has a ban on smoking in municipal buildings and public parks on the books but people smoke both cigarettes and marijuana in Pulaski Park, Ms. Levin pointed out. Right now they don't have anyone enforcing the restriction. They have signs at bus stops but no enforcement. If they are going to start having pot, now is the time to talk about more enforcement, she suggested.

**Health Director Merredith O'Leary** confirmed that Northampton has smoking regulations that cover all combustible products. Smoking is prohibited in recreation areas. The ban has been pretty successful in most city parks and recreation areas except Pulaski Park. The Mayor just put new revamped signs there and new signs at bus stops. The way the regulation is written, if people can't smoke cigarettes, they can't smoke marijuana. They are currently having discussions about expanding places where smoking is prohibited and creating smoke-free downtowns. If they do impose new rules, marijuana will be included.

With regard to enforcement, she has had conversations with the Mayor and Police Chief Kasper. With one and a half employees, the health department cannot enforce smoking regulations. The city can either hire someone or give the enforcement responsibility to people already out there – police officers. Right now smoking is a non-criminal infraction so violators just get a ticket. Discussions about enforcement are taking place between departments and the Mayor, she confirmed.

Councilor Bidwell asked if there is any talk about an additional ordinance that would address the matter of a cap or density.

What's in front of the council now are land-use changes, Senior Planner Carolyn Misch advised. Someone could argue it is land-use control but it is more of a political decision, she suggested. Density restrictions may work in large communities with huge downtown areas, but many municipalities around the country have fairly small commercial districts. In such cases, if there is interest in limiting establishments, a cap is a better way to minimize them than dispersing them on the edges of the district, she said.

Councilor Klein referred to the tension between what is evidence-based and what is not evidence-based. She is a little surprised they didn't hear any evidence that has been collected from those locations; i.e. – if youth use has increased, etc.

There are studies out of Colorado that suggest that teen use has not increased but rather decreased, Attorney Napoli stated. Studies are showing that [legalizing recreational marijuana] does not increase use among teens; in fact it stays the same. She said she would be happy to share that information.

There is a lot of evidence from the other states, Mr. Evans confirmed. In Colorado there have been a number of studies that indicate that property values in neighborhoods with establishments have increased and that property crime is decreasing.

People need to look closely at the studies because there are a number of communities that haven't been surveyed, Ms. Warner countered. Readers will see that youth rates have risen in certain communities. She said she could provide that information.

Councilor Klein asked about the reference to studies showing that, in areas where marijuana has been legalized, opiate use has gone down.

Ms. Laurie said she feels really proud about being involved 18 years ago in bringing a needle exchange program to Northampton. The opiate problem in Northampton is pretty serious, she observed. It has been rewarding to her to see the number of individuals who come in with a list of opioids they are taking who are able to show later a reduction in the amount of opiates. There are a number of people in Northampton who aren't dealing with opiates because of medical marijuana, she asserted.

**Michael Kusek of 26 Center Street** said Northampton may be a destination for people seeking to use marijuana. By postponing action on cannabis cafes, he thinks the CCC is creating a bit of an issue for tourists who might want to come to Northampton to buy marijuana. As far as the number of businesses, he voiced the opinion that the free market will sort that out. The BOH and police force will have to work closely around enforcement to address public consumption.

Dr. Suopis thanked Councilor Klein for bringing up the point about evidence based impacts. Safe injection sites are now being considered, and [policy makers] have the opportunity to address what they now know. She would like to see them embrace this as well.

Councilor Bidwell asked NETA representatives to describe the physical changes to the NETA facility.

There is a requirement in the regulations for separation between medical and adult uses, Attorney Napoli explained. It is proposed to be virtual but there is also mention of a physical barrier. It is unclear where that barrier is; whether in the packaging or in the checkout area. Depending on where that separation is, NETA may have to make some minor modifications.

Councilor Bidwell asked if they are thinking there is going to be a single entrance, and Attorney Napoli said it is unclear. Regulations originally referred to a virtual separation, she reiterated.

Her dad is a radical political economist who taught at Hampshire College, Ms. Warner shared. Free market stuff isn't funny to her because this is big business; it isn't farm stands. She repeated the concern that not all retailers are going to look like NETA.

Rosa Toffe of 45 Olive Street said something super important to consider is mixed-use licenses and permits. People want to open yoga studios, etc. If Northampton has more of these places they will not have to worry about public consumption; marijuana use will become normalized. It is important to consider mixed-use licensing, where people will have the opportunity to 'dabble' in cannabis. There is a huge world

that sort of revolves around cannabis, she reminded. She said she wants to make it fair for smaller players to get into the market.

It depends on the mixed-use, Attorney Napoli commented. If it is a lounge, it will not be allowed. As of yesterday, the CCC voted to delay any more discussion of social consumption clubs until October 1<sup>st</sup>. [Licensing authorities] are not going to have a concrete request until next February.

Patricia Malone of Florence Center said she moved here seven or eight years ago and is impressed with how thoughtfully things are done. She wants to continue in the same vein. She urged councilors to maximize tax revenue to support education and prevention. She is also concerned with thoughtful zoning to reduce exposure to children and encouraged councilors to keep retail marijuana out of downtown and pedestrian areas. Also, how do they monitor driving while intoxicated? She asked.

Referring to Councilor Bidwell's earlier question about the science of impaired driving, Attorney Evans informed members that there are gadgets that purport to detect marijuana consumption. A field sobriety test is the standard test for drivers suspected of being impaired. Video is another tool; if police cruisers have videos or body cams and make a recording of the operation of the motor vehicle, the motorist's response and the field sobriety test, this can be shown to a judge.

Northampton cruisers have video cameras, Councilor Sciarra noted.

Ms. Lenox recommended raising awareness among youth about the danger of driving impaired. She cited another state with a good ad campaign.

As a Cannabis Advisory Board member, Attorney Napoli informed them of tools available on the CCC website. There is a wealth of information there, she said.

Jeff Garfield of Agawam said he is 23 years old and a marijuana user. It would be nice to have more stores available to provide the public with healthier, tested products, he remarked. He said he thought limiting shops was a problem. He thinks products like chocolate bars and other edibles are healthier than smoke-based products.

There being no further comments, Councilor Sciarra thanked everyone for coming. She repeated that Legislative Matters will be meeting at 7 p.m. to go over zoning proposals, while the local option sales tax will be on the next agenda of the Finance Committee.

**Adjourn.** At 6:46 p.m., Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Prepared By:  
*Laura Krutzler, Administrative Assistant*  
*(413) 587-1210*