

# Medical Marijuana Facility Update

January 13, 2016

Peter Morin, Town Administrator



# Background on Medical Marijuana in Massachusetts

- Authorized by a State Ballot Question on November 6, 2012
- State Vote: 63% Yes / 37% No
- Passed in Norwell: 60% Yes / 40% No
- Federal ban on Medical Marijuana lifted in December 2015



# Medical Marijuana

- Requires State approved IDs for patients
- Requires a doctor (2 for children) to determine that the potential benefits exceed the risks
- Comes in many forms; not all produce a “high” (CBD vs. THC)
- Used to treat cancer, autism, epilepsy, glaucoma, MS and other conditions



# Zoning in Norwell

- All cities & towns *required* to zone for Medical Marijuana Facilities
- Passed *unanimously* at May 2013 Town Meeting
- Zoning crafted by Planning Board:
  - Limited to Longwater Dr. & Accord Park Dr. business districts
  - Must be at least 500' from any residence, school, or day care center
  - Requires Special Permit from ZBA



# Permitted Medical Marijuana Facilities in Massachusetts to date

- 4 Applicants Licensed to Sell: Amesbury/Salem, Ayer, Brockton, Franklin/Northampton
- 155 applications are pending before the Department of Public Health including companies from Duxbury, Hingham, Plymouth and Scituate.
- Letters of support have been sought in Rockland , Hingham and Marshfield.



# Interest in Siting a Facility in Norwell

- Close to medical offices and facilities
- Accessible to highway
- Non-intrusive to residents
- Midpoint between Quincy and Plymouth



# Why haven't the Selectmen Opposed a Registered Marijuana Dispensary

- A facility is coming to this area, if not in Norwell, likely on our border.
- Security plans will be scrutinized by *our* Police Dept.
- Special permits will be granted by *our* boards
- Revenue and jobs for Norwell



# Why do we want this revenue?

- Alternative to overrides or cuts to services.
- New non-residential revenues, low impact commerce.
- 5 Year Community Impact Agreement will yield amount equal to property taxes plus a share of sales, up to \$1.5 million.



# Companies Interested in Norwell

- Mass Medi-Spa: furthest along in Norwell
- William Noyes Webster Foundation



# Mass Medi-Spa

- Cultivation and Dispensing Facility
- Patients by appointment only and must show state marijuana card at entrance.
- Parking lot under surveillance and security on site 24/7.
- Signet Security, a Norwell company, installed security components at Norwell Police Station .



