

TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK

NOTICE REGARDING RETAIL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND RETAIL MARIJUANA SOCIAL CLUBS

On November 8, 2016, a referendum entitled the Marijuana Legalization Act was approved by the voters. This law allows for retail sales of marijuana, retail marijuana cultivation, manufacturing and testing facilities, as well as retail marijuana social clubs.

The new law took effect on January 30, 2017. However, the Legislature has delayed implementation until February 1, 2018. During this time, the State will develop rules for issuing state licenses for retail marijuana establishments and social clubs. Until the State establishes regulations for licensing such establishments and no earlier than February 1st, 2018, no person can operate a retail marijuana establishment or retail marijuana social club in Maine.

The new law gives municipalities the authority to prohibit retail marijuana establishments and/or retail marijuana social clubs and also authorizes municipalities to regulate their location, operation and licensing.

During the time period when the State is developing licensing regulations, the Town of South Berwick will consider whether to regulate or prohibit such establishments and may enact ordinance amendments pertaining to such regulations.

At this time, and until further notice, the Town will not accept any applications for a business license, building permit, certificate of occupancy, site plan review, conditional use, or any other approval for the operation of any facility, building, or property related to the cultivation, manufacturing, testing, sale or consumption of retail marijuana.

Properties that are currently permitted as retail, manufacturing, or similar operations shall not be permitted to operate as a retail marijuana establishment or retail marijuana social club without the necessary licensing and approvals required by the Marijuana Legalization Act and shall only be permitted by the Town in accordance with future land use regulations concerning retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs.