

BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN

Mayor
Brad Myhre

Incorporated April 4, 1867
Borough Hall 29 Second Street
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Municipal Clerk
Brenda S. Shepherd, R.M.C.

From: Frenchtown Borough Cannabis Committee: Kandy Ferree (Committee Chair and Borough Council Member), Brad Myhre (Mayor of Frenchtown) Michele Liebttag (Borough Council President), Randi Eckel (Planning and Zoning Board Chair), John Dougherty (Planning and Zoning Board Member), Gordon Dragt (Planning and Zoning Board Member), Sandra Dillon (Frenchtown Business and Professional Association [FBPA] member), Jessikah Goodale (FBPA member), and Ann Miller (FBPA member)

To: Residents and Business Owners of Frenchtown

1. In November 2020 New Jersey voters approved a ballot measure legalizing cannabis (marijuana) businesses and recreational use of cannabis by adults 21 years and older. In Frenchtown 632 residents (76.51%) voted in favor and 194 residents (23.48%) voted against the ballot measure.
2. Shortly thereafter the state legislature passed the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” legalizing the recreational use of cannabis by adults 21 years and older and defining six classes of cannabis businesses: 1) grower, 2) processor, 3) wholesaler, 4) distributor, 5) retailer, and 6) delivery. This law requires local municipalities like Frenchtown to adopt an ordinance regulating cannabis businesses by August 21, 2021 or to accept the provisions of the state law for five years during which time local ordinances can’t be passed regulating cannabis businesses.
3. What does this mean for Frenchtown? We have three options:
 - a. Do nothing, accept the provisions of the state law on August 21, 2021, and wait 5-years to pass an ordinance. This would allow all cannabis business to operate in industrial zones and retail business to operate in commercial and retail zones in Frenchtown.
 - b. Pass an ordinance before August 21, 2021 to regulate cannabis business in the borough.
 - c. Prohibit all cannabis business as an **interim** measure to allow time to prepare a suitable ordinance (the borough can’t prohibit delivery to residents of cannabis by Class 6 delivery businesses from licensed retailers in other municipalities).
4. The Cannabis Committee met for the first time on May 3, 2021 and after considering our options recommended to the Borough Council at their June 2, 2021 meeting that they adopt an ordinance prohibiting cannabis businesses (prohibitive ordinance) before August 21, 2021 as an **interim** measure so that we have time to listen to the community and to prepare a suitable “permissive” ordinance for Frenchtown.
5. We want your input. The Cannabis Committee is hosting a community listening event on Saturday June 12th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. You are invited to participate via Zoom, see below, by calling into the Zoom meeting from your phone using the instructions below under “dial by your location”, by submitting comments and questions via email with “cannabis” on the subject line to input@frenchtownborough.com, or by writing to Brenda S. Shepherd, Borough of Frenchtown Clerk, Borough Hall, 29 Second Street, Frenchtown, NJ 08825.

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- a. Topic: Town Hall meeting - Cannabis Legislation
Time: Jun 12, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dvrhs.zoom.us/j/88452196268?pwd=TjFMWis0K1kzQzZHY0tzVGluT0JOZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5219 6268

Passcode: 732902

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88452196268#,,,,*732902# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,88452196268#,,,,*732902# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 884 5219 6268

Passcode: 732902

Find your local number: <https://dvrhs.zoom.us/j/kd4rTM8YD4>

6. To meet the August 21, 2021 deadline imposed by the state law, the schedule presented to the Borough Council on June 2, 2021 will be followed:
- a. June 12, 2021 Community listening event hosted by the Cannabis Committee
 - b. July 7, 2021 Borough Council Meeting: introduce a draft prohibitive ordinance and refer it to the Planning and Zoning Board for review
 - c. July 28, 2021 Planning and Zoning Board meeting: review prohibitive ordinance and report back to the Borough Council
 - d. August 4, 2021 Borough Council Meeting: second reading of the prohibitive ordinance, public hearing, and vote.
 - e. Summer and Fall 2021: The Committee will work on developing a permissive ordinance which is suitable for Frenchtown and schedule additional public listing sessions as appropriate.