

The September 7 meeting of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) was attended by (in reverse alphabetical order) Jason Verhoosky, Sarkis Sarkisian, Brenda Ross, Lisa Raftery, Jane Purser, Dr. Dossie Kahn, Julia Junghans, Sarah Greenaway, Rev. Theodore Crass, Detective Tyler Castagno and Youth Office Shane Bowles.

After the members gave a brief summary of their summers, the meeting was officially called to order at 9:10.

Marijuana update

Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian opened the meeting by saying that he and Board of Health director Julia Junghans were part of a working group, which also included YAC chairperson Sarah Greenaway, director of Youth & Family Services Jason Verhoosky, town clerk Beth Klein, building commissioner Geoff Larsen, Chief of Police Patrick Swanick and Lea Anderson, chairperson of the Wayland Board of Selectmen. Together the working group, after considering a recommendation from the Board of Health, input from emails and what was discussed and presented at the forum on marijuana that had been held on June 5, decided to oppose the retail sale of recreational marijuana in Wayland. Because the original vote to legalize marijuana passed by 64 votes in Wayland, a two-step process is required to ban retail sales: a ballot question, which requires a simple majority, and a Town Meeting vote, which would require a 2/3 majority.

The working group decided against including the ballot question to ban the sale of recreational marijuana in Wayland during the Sept. 4 primary election, so the Board of Selectmen decided the ballot question would go to a special Town Election on Oct. 2. Mr. Sarkisian noted that residents will be able to vote via absentee ballot. (*Minute-taker's note: The ballots are available until noon on Oct. 1 and must be returned by 8 pm on Oct. 2.*) Ms. Junghans encouraged YAC members to talk to friends and focus media attention on this issue. She said that as town employee she can share the working group's recommendations but cannot encourage residents to vote one way or another.

Although applications to open a retail marijuana establishment in Wayland cannot be filed until Oct. 1, due to the town moratorium, Mr. Sarkisian was asked if representatives of any such establishments had already contacted Wayland officials. Ms. Junghans said the only call to the Board of Health came from someone who inquired about opening a drug paraphernalia shop, a type of business that is not regulated by the Cannabis Control Commission. The caller inquired about getting a tobacco permit. When she was told that securing a tobacco permit was highly unlikely, she ended the call and the matter died.

Mr. Sarkisian said that the Oct. 2 ballot question is phrased so that a yes vote would be in favor of adopting the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit all types of recreational (but not medical) marijuana establishments in town. If the ban passes on Oct. 2, but fails to get a 2/3 majority at November Town Meeting on Nov. 13, the next step would likely be a vote on a zoning article that would call for creating an overlay district on a parcel of land near the Maserati dealership on Boston Post Road/Rte. 20. This overlay district would house any marijuana-related businesses, such as retail shops, cultivation sites, testing facilities or

delivery businesses. Mr. Sarkisian also noted that Wayland could have two recreational pot retail establishments, not just one as previously thought, since the town actually now has seven liquor permits, not five. (The number of marijuana retail permits is equal to 20% of the liquor licenses.)

Originally there were going to be five articles up for discussion: prohibition of retail, deciding on one of three potential overlay districts, and extending the temporary moratorium in place, which ends Dec. 31. However, two of the overlay districts were eliminated from discussion, and the board was against another temporary moratorium. This left two articles: banning retail sales of marijuana and creating the one overlay district on Rte. 20 near the Sudbury line.

Ms. Jane Purser made the suggestion that the town should clarify that only one overlay district is under discussion, because until very recently people were reading that there were three possibilities.

Detective Tyler Castagno asked, "If the overlay district is created, what security measures would be required from the Wayland police force, and whether the district would need a 24-hour patrol?" Mr. Sarkisian gave a copy of the packet he had created which discussed all the issues pertaining to having marijuana-related businesses in Wayland to Mr. Castagno and said that the responsibilities of the police force were discussion on p. 5, but that information was not discussed among the group.

Rev. Theodore Crass asked for clarification on the order of the votes. Mr. Sarkisian responded that the order is not relevant, that the Town Meeting vote could technically precede the ballot vote. But the article has to pass at both. It was also noted that if the vote to ban the sale of recreational marijuana failed at the ballot, but still got a 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting, there could technically be another ballot.

To this, Mr. Verhoosky said that if the Oct. 2 ballot failed, he did not think it was prudent to take the article to Town Meeting. He said he would still support it but thought the pro-marijuana residents at this point would be in no mood to listen to more anti-marijuana arguments. (*Minute-taker's note: This is paraphrasing what Mr. Verhoosky said.*)

Mr. Sarkisian said there was another key component to the overlay district. The original proposal was very restrictive; a business had to be 500 feet not only from a K-12 school but all types of educational facilities. However, according to a byline approved by the Attorney General's office, only K-12 schools matter. For instance, Longfellow preschool doesn't count.

Mr. Sarkisian said that the Board of Selectmen hasn't yet taken a position, but he was hoping that it would do so at its monthly meeting on Sept. 10.

Ms. Purser recommended that YAC members attend the planning board meeting to be held on Thurs., Sept. 27, in order to hear the recommendations of the various town boards. She said that it would be helpful if YAC members could tell other people that the

Board of Health is against allowing retailing, as are the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. Dr. Dossie Kahn agreed, saying that being able to let residents know about the recommendations of the town boards would be helpful, even though all a town employee can do is tell people they have a chance to have their voices heard on Oct. 2.

Mr. Verhoosky pointed out that the School Committee has not yet made a recommendation of the matter of retail sales, that the principals of the various Wayland schools cannot take a stance, and that the matter cannot be discussed in school newsletters. However, he said that the town's schools' PTO committees can take a stance.

(Minute-taker's note: At this point, the discussion of marijuana dispensaries ended and Mr. Sarkisian and Ms. Junghans left.)

Domestic violence

Mr. Verhoosky relayed a message from Dr. Malcolm Astley, who was not able to attend the Sept. 7 meeting. Dr. Astley wanted to know if anyone had any comments regarding the June 19 presentation at Wayland High School on the three tiers of prevention of domestic violence by Ms. Rebecca Mooney of the Melrose Alliance Against Violence.

Mr. Greenaway and Mr. Verhoosky posited that the town of Wayland had the resources in place to address the issue, noting that the town offers Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) classes, through the police department, for both females and males. Mr. Verhoosky alluded to a discussion he had at the June 19 meeting with then director of student services Marlene Dodyk, at which she said she thought the town "was doing great." Mr. Verhoosky said that he and Ms. Purser were sitting on a group with the new director of student services, Richard Whitehead, who told them he would soon be joining the YAC meetings.

Mr. Verhoosky relayed another item from Dr. Astley regarding the prevention of domestic violence. Dr. Astley wanted to remind members that the Sudbury-Lincoln-Wayland Domestic Violence Roundtable would be sponsoring a march on Tuesday Oct. 9. The marchers would start at the Community United Methodist Church in Wayland at 5:45 and would walk to the First Parish Unitarian Church, where at 7 pm the names of local victims of domestic violence would be read.

Youth and Family Services update

Mr. Verhoosky said that he and Ms. Purser had conducted two successful EMPOWER workshops over the summer. The first group had 15 youths in attendance and this group was described as very socially conscious, engaging in discussions about suicide prevention and mental health. The second group was supposed to have 13 youths in attendance, but due to some last-minute dropouts, the actual number was seven or eight. The second group tended to be younger than the first group.

Ms. Purser said that every year the structure of the EMPOWER meetings change somewhat. They used to involve community service. In previous years lunch was provided by local businesses; this year attendees brought their own. Previously there was a fee for attending. This year the fee was dropped, and the workgroups were free, which led to the thought that this was behind the reason for the late cancellations, which was doubly unfortunate, because a number of applicants were turned away when the group had reached its maximum. So a return to admission fees will be considered, or else a cancellation fee. We turned away kids from second group and then had dropouts, maybe go back to fee. There is also the thought of limiting admission to students from eighth to 12th grades, with the thought that seventh graders are not mature enough.

However, Dr. Dossie Kahn argued for including seventh graders, saying that the seventh graders provided a burst of energy and open attitude.

Mr. Verhoosky announced that the YAC had submitted its final fall grant reporting structure, this (2018-2019) being the final year it will be receiving funding. He said he would be putting in submissions for an increase in staffing, which would include increasing clinician Kelsey Sanclemente's hours from the current 21 to 28, based on the growing caseload. However, for the year after the grant ends, the reimbursement for making Ms. Purser's position a full-time one would need to be folded into the town budget at Town Meeting.

Dr. Dossie Kahn said that Youth & Family Services was entering the fall with a higher caseload than last year, and depending on the number of referrals, may need to shift a bit to more short-term consultations. She said that Ms. Sanclemente is looking for more hours with Wayland Youth & Family Services than her current 21.

Mr. Verhoosky said that the process for getting Ms. Sanclemente more hours is done entirely at the town department level. The first step is a recommendation, then a proposal to the town finance committee, then if the proposal is accepted, the submission goes to the personnel board, which says yea or nay.

Mr. Verhoosky reminded the attendees that all official members of YAC need to be on the town email system, and that if anyone was unclear as to whether they were an active member, they would need to be re-sworn in by the town clerk Beth Klein.

Ms. Greenaway reminded the members that she is interested in the group finding a new chairperson to assume her current role. She said she would like to remain on the committee but not as chair.

Mr. Verhoosky reminded the attendees that it was time to do his review, which officially was scheduled for August 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25.