

TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 145-89 “Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments:”

§ 145-89 Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes (new G.L. c. 94G, Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana Not Medically Prescribed). The law, which allows certain personal use and possession of marijuana, took effect on December 15, 2016 and (as amended on December 30, 2016 by Chapter 351 of the Acts of 2016 and thereafter, on July 28, 2017 by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017) requires a Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations regarding the licensing of commercial activities by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses no later than April 1, 2018. Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, a non-medical Marijuana Establishment (hereinafter, a “Recreational Marijuana Establishment”), as defined in G.L. c. 94G, §1, is not specifically addressed in the Townsend Zoning Bylaw.

The regulation of recreational marijuana raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues, and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and address such issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Townsend Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments. This temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Recreational Marijuana Establishments will allow sufficient time to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a consistent manner.

A. Definition

“Recreational Marijuana Establishment” shall mean a “marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business.”

B. Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Recreational Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana. The moratorium shall be in effect through ~~December 31, 2018~~ June 28, 2019 or until a bylaw is earlier approved. During the

moratorium period, the Planning Board, on behalf of the Town of Townsend, shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, and to consider the Cannabis Control Commission regulations regarding Recreational Marijuana Establishments, and shall consider adopting new Zoning Bylaws in response to these new issues.