

**CONTINUATION of PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 13 of 2021
DECEMBER 16, 2021**

A Public Hearing continuation was held on December 16, 2021 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park of Proposed **LOCAL LAW #13 OF 2021, ENTITLED A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK TO OPT OUT OF ALLOWING CANNABIS RETAIL DISPENSARIES AND ON-SITE CONSUMPTION SITES AS AUTHORIZED UNDER CANNABIS LAW ARTICLE 4.** Meeting was also available via zoom and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss - absent
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Laura Robinson
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Chris Farrell**

Deputy Supervisor Shannon Harris conducted the meeting without voting privileges.

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

WAYS TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. In-Person – Attend the Workshop
2. PHONE IN –Leave a voicemail on **(845)339-1811 x106 prior to the meeting**
3. EMAIL - outreach@esopus.com with the subject line “Public Comment”
4. MAIL – mail written comments to:
*Town of Esopus, P.O. Box 700
Port Ewen, NY 12466*

Proposed Local Law 13 was introduced on October 7, 2021 and Noticed in the Daily Freeman on October 17, 2021. Public Hearings were held 11/4 , 11/18 and 12/2 and were held open. The proposed law was available for review at www.esopus.com. Final version of the Law was given to the Board on 12/7/2021.

COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO BE KNOWN AS LOCAL LAW #13 OF 2021, ENTITLED A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK TO OPT OUT OF ALLOWING CANNABIS RETAIL DISPENSARIES AND ON-SITE CONSUMPTION SITES AS AUTHORIZED UNDER CANNABIS LAW ARTICLE 4. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Many people present held signs encouraging the Board to opt out of allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and on site Consumption.

FATHER ARTHUR ROJAS- Presentation Sacred Heart Church, re - stated his request to have the Town Board Pass Local Law #13 to OPT OUT and keep Esopus a family friendly place to live.

Perry Gallo, Sleightsburgh – Should be a separation of church and state. It is up to parents to raise/control their children. We are going to need this money. Taxes keep going up; churches are not going to pay for that.

Jay Mauer, Port Ewen – Asked the Board to OPT OUT, cannot see it improving our quality of living; increase access is increase use. There will not be a tax windfall for Esopus. Long term health cost will out way revenues the Town anticipates. If prostitution was legalized, would we want it? Dispensaries send bad messages. Is it really an influx? Watch and learn from those who OPT IN.

Skip Doyle -Port Ewen – “Foremost, let me thank the Esopus Board for hosting this public comment and my Esopus neighbors for voicing their values.

My name is Skip Doyle; I live right here in this hamlet of Port Ewen. I boast that I was born in our town of Esopus and shall be buried in our town of Esopus.

I have weighed this concern in my mind and in my heart and have penned my pondering to paper. I would like to share those thoughts with you:

Unlike our state legislators who have our New York State constitution for moral guidance, and our congressmen in Washington who have the United States constitution to consult in governing how we want to live, our local government has no such document. Our values are embodied in our 10 score and 10 years of Esopus heritage. That heritage shines outside this town hall in the shrine for war veterans who sacrificed their lives for the betterment of all in this community and this country. It is evident in the American flags that fly from Esopus firehouses, churches, and homes which salute our concern for all citizens. And it is proclaimed by that monument in the center of our town: Sojourner Truth Park.

This value of civic welfare is extolled by the life and words of Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth promoted three causes: the abolition of slavery, equal rights for women, and temperance. She held temperance as important as slavery and women’s rights because she witnessed the devastation that intoxication reeked on her Esopus neighbors, her family, her friends – as we all have. And if anyone has escaped such tragedy, just come to this court any Tuesday night. The question before you today is: am I a Dumont or am I a Van Wagenen? Will you use the law to perpetuate a wrong? Or work within the law to right an injustice?

The enslavement of other human-beings, the suppression of women, intemperance... what do each of these have in common? Selfishly benefiting oneself at the expense of

another. Standing in my own boots, I realize that this issue is not about my right to ingest anything into my body that I want. As a landowner, it is not about tax revenues. It is about my civic obligation to my neighbors.”

John Dunne in his poem *For Whom the Bells Toll* writes:

“No man is an island... Each is a part of the main.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.”

Chris Marta, Sleightsburgh False - Money vs Morals, greed is the root of all evil. Money however makes the world go round. Nothing wrong with residents wanting the Board to look at all types of potential revenue objectively. No better or worse than other. It is not the job of the Board to teach morals; government enforces. There is nothing unlawful here tonight. Reality is pot/weed is legal here, it's coming, and we need to deal with it. The Board has to figure out how we deal with it. On behalf of a survey of the Sleightsburgh Residence Association, Dispensaries yes, Lounges no. Chris asked Board to OPT IN.

Kim Carrigan, Ulster Park – mother, teacher, wife of a disabled man and has children that go to Kingston Catholic School. Dispensaries should be allowed in Esopus, no worse than a child seeing a tattoo/piercing shops, liquor, or beverage stores. New signage for the lower end of Esopus have grapes and beer mugs representative agricultural business. This is an economic opportunity. Asked why she can't spend her money in her own state and hometown. Family values start at home, this is not a den of inequity. The town is comprised of more than just 9W, farmland is available for industry. For those who say we shouldn't sell out for the almighty dollar, we live in a capitalist society and should support new opportunities for our friends and neighbors.

John Affranti 670 Old Post Road Wants Board to OPT OUT Cannabis effects people differently and causes safety issues on roadways. Cannabis has its place in the home. However, having lounges and dispensaries is asking for problems.

Tom Chriss Old Post Road- revenue vs raising our kids. You are weighing tax money vs a perfect town to raise kids. Cannot understand why revenue is more important.

Simon Swan, resident for 5 years. Our children are smart. Nothing could be more confusing than why can we buy a product in Kingston but not our town. Missing an opportunity. He fears making a decision now is closed minded. If you can make or sell it here and should preclude opportunities here. A business is a business, and the law should not be passed lightly.

****Chris Marta** added a comment since it was the last town board meeting of the year, he wanted to thank Councilman Chris Farrell for his service and Supervisor Jared Geuss for stepping up as Supervisor when the position was vacated in the spring.

Patty O'Brien, Connelly sees what drugs can do to your family. Children will be influenced. As far as being a religious community, we have same rights as everyone else. Asked Board to OPT OUT. Parents cannot watch their children 24 hours a day.

Stephen Lewis Sleightsburgh - three points 1. Moral arguments – not a reason. Law was changed because of arrests in minority disparity; move to racial equity. Marijuana is legal 2. Sales will be everywhere in New York- loss of revenue in Esopus. We need money in town we have a lot of expensive projects. 3 Tourism, agro-economics. Obviously these dispensaries are regulated businesses, not “fly by night” operations.

Asks Board to OPT IN

Arlene Post, Ulster Park – Separation of church and state was done to prevent only one religion. It’s not worth it. Although it is legal, many laws have been made that are bad. Do the right thing and OPT OUT.

M.C. Edwards, Second Ave. asked Board to OPT IN. Dispensaries bring a wide range of jobs that can teach valuable skills; introduction to tourism. They don’t look any different than a liquor store. Board can determine where they will be. Do your homework for what is the best placement and hours. Board can regulate what is manufactured. She sees a lot of positives for residents and taxpayers. She is afraid of not being able to afford to live in the town; any revenue is welcomed.

George Post, Ulster Park Asked How the money will be dispensed? How can you make a decision before knowing how much you are going to have? Be careful, once your in-your in; our taxes are reasonable. Can always opt in later but OPT OUT now.

Jennifer Fowler – Chris Farrell read an email that was sent from Jennifer Fowler.

Hello Mr. Farrell,

I live on New Salem Rd. I’m writing to support allowing cannabis dispensary in the Town of Esopus.

As a metastatic breast cancer patient who currently uses medical marijuana for treatment purposes, I would appreciate a more convenient place to purchase these types of products for pain relief and insomnia.

I think the taxes will benefit our community and an Esopus location would be accessible to commuters along 9W, as it is for our local liquor stores.

Jennifer Fowler 443 New Salem Rd Kingston, NY 12401

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #13 OF 2021. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

All persons wishing to be heard were heard.

*Respectively submitted,
Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*