

Brookline Marijuana Shop Proposal Violates Town, State Zoning Laws, Lawyers Say

Ascend Cannabis' Proposed Marijuana Shop In Brookline's Small Business District Is Too Close To Nearby Middle School

BROOKLINE, Nov 20, 2018 -- Ascend Cannabis' proposed marijuana retail store is only 498 feet away from a nearby middle school, which puts it in violation of state and town laws and puts its proposal in jeopardy of moving forward. At Tuesday night's Brookline Select Board meeting, the attorney for the neighborhood opposition group detailed how the proposed marijuana retail store falls short of the 500-foot buffer zone.

"This violates both state and town regulations," said Chris Tsouros, an attorney at Posternak and the lawyer representing the Save St. Mary's Group. "These matters are not discretionary - you either comply or you don't, and the 1032 Beacon Street location does not comply,"

About 30 community members, many of whom wore orange hats to visibly symbolize their opposition, attended the Select Board meeting. Several expressed astonishment at the finding, given earlier assurances by Ascend, the marijuana retailer, that the site met all zoning codes at a "higher standard."

Ascend's memo to the town on October 2nd contained a plan showing a 504 foot distance.

"Ascend relied on computer site data and did not look at the actual deeds," said Paul Warren, the leader of the opposition movement. "Ascend did not do an actual site survey. We did. Ascend's plan was not stamped by the surveying firm, and was not initialed and checked. Ours was."

This meeting followed a previous Select Board meeting on November 7th, where opponents to the proposed retail store catalogued a series of problems with the site with and Ascend's proposal, culminating in a methodical description by Town Meeting Member Kate Silbaugh of the heavy-handed, inappropriate way Ascend tried to manage the community meetings. The Select Board was so taken by this testimony that they asked for a written copy of the talk.

Further information can be found at <https://no1032pot.com/>

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