

# Maybe it's time for a local smoking ban

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor ("Pound Ridge residents deserve update on cannabis store plans," Sept. 22), Susan Lee referenced rumors that a cannabis dispensary may open in Pound Ridge. She stated that she was unable to get clarification about this from the Town House. I'm not sure whom Ms. Lee may have reached when she called, but I'm sorry it wasn't me, because I'm happy to answer such questions. Residents seeking information on this topic are welcome to call me directly at 914-764-5549.

At this time, I'm not aware of any conditional licensee that has been granted state approval to operate a dispensary anywhere in Pound Ridge. Although some may be exploring or even pursuing this — hence the rumors — choosing such a sparsely populated location may not be a smart or sustainable business move, especially with dispensaries already open just over the border in Stamford and soon in Norwalk, as well.

Because of Connecticut's rollout, legal cannabis is already available to

those who live and work in Pound Ridge. Not having a dispensary in town won't change this.

In my opinion, a more fundamental quality-of-life issue than where cannabis is sold is how legalization may affect what happens in our public spaces. Although to my knowledge there have been no complaints to the town about marijuana smoking in the months since legalization, it may be time for a local law that would ban smoking of any kind — cannabis as well as tobacco — on public property, including the Green, the Town Park, the Slade Preserve and so on.

While the town has gotten by for many years without an open container law, I'm not sure we should try to do so without a smoking ban. Smoking impacts bystanders in a way that alcohol consumption doesn't. I urge residents who share this view to make their voices heard.

Erin Trostle  
Pound Ridge

*Editor's note: The author is seeking re-election as Pound Ridge Town Clerk.*