



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

**David Clark
Marcus L. DiNatale
E. Thomas Donnelly
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella**

President

Michael P. Kushmerek

Vice President

Amy L. Green

Ward Councilors

**Ward 1 – Amy L. Green
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Joel R. Kaddy
Ward 4 – Michael P. Kushmerek
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Elizabeth R. Walsh**

Finance Committee

A special meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman DiNatale on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:03 PM in the Memorial Middle School Library, 615 Rollstone Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Marcus DiNatale, Michael Kushmerek, Elizabeth Walsh, and Anthony Zarrella.

Other Councilors present: David Clark, E. Thomas Donnelly, and Samantha Squailia.

Others present: City Auditor Calvin Brooks, Mayor's Chief of Staff A. J. Tourigny, Asst. City Solicitor Christine Tree, DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso, Dean Iandoli and Catherine Trifelo.

277-18 **ORDER:** the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Recreational Trails Program grant in the approximate amount of \$100,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to be used toward the construction of the Rollstone Hill Trail, also known as The Rock Walk.

Discussion: The chairman read the letter from DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso dated October 17, 2018. Mr. Laakso noted that Peter Capodagli had given a presentation to City Council earlier in the year when a \$13,000 grant was being discussed. There have been many meetings to move the project along, so it can be done in the next year.

Councilors expressed concern about overgrowth on the trail and the maintenance work on the trail taking away resources from other parks. Mr. Laakso stated that minimal maintenance will be required. The trail already exists and this grant will be used to make it more accessible. More use of the trail will lessen the need for maintenance. Councilors noted

that there are often volunteers willing to help with the overgrowth and spoke about making sure the neighborhoods near the trail heads are inviting.

Action: Be adopted (5-0)

278-18 ORDER: that The Honorable Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale is authorized on behalf of the City of Fitchburg to facilitate and execute the attached Community Host Benefit agreement with Caregiver-Patient Connection, Inc. located at 373 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Discussion: Assistant City Solicitor Christine Tree explained that this agreement is for a retail only marijuana facility which is still in the process of being permitted. The agreement calls for a 3% mitigation fee, with \$30,000 due at opening, and an addition \$10,000 per year in community relations donations. The Law Department has added language to this and subsequent agreements to institute social equity programs that empower certain groups who have been affected by earlier prohibition of marijuana.

Councilors noted that there had been an outreach meeting held at the library last Saturday. Dean Iandoli and Catherine Trifilo, owners of Caregiver-Patient Connection, Inc., stated that they gave proper notification, especially to abutters, but only one person showed up. They have been meeting with the Planning Board to discuss parking and other issues. They will be using a valet only parking service, which helps with both parking and security. They are required to have six spaces, but will have ten for retail and another five for employees. The kinds of products being offered is evolving, but will include cannabis flower, vaporizers, some edibles, pet products, and horse products.


Atty. Tree noted that the 3% impact fee is for five years. Each company will form its own community relations board with the mayor providing recommendations for some of the seats on the board.

Caregiver-Patient Connection, Inc. is working on licenses for locations in two other communities and they also have a cultivation facility in Barre that will be ready for next year. The target date for opening a retail operation in Fitchburg is the beginning of the second quarter in 2019.

Action: Be adopted (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk