

**Ordinance Rewrite Committee**  
**12/10/2019**  
**Meeting Notes & Recommendations**

**Members Present:** Maureen AuCoin, John Carson, Kate Dufour (Chair), Michael Frett, Danielle Obery, and Pam Perry

**Staff Present:** Doug Ide, City Code Enforcement Officer

**Notes:** **1. Advertising Signs on Private Property.** The Ordinance Rewrite Committee (ORC) discussed a proposal to limit the number of days a commercial advertising sign can be displayed on private property with a provision allowing a business owner to apply to the City for an extension. A member of the public who attended the December 10 meeting expressed support for the initiative as signs that are left up for months have an adverse impact on the community's aesthetic. One member of the committee expressed concern with the enforceability of the ordinance.

*The ORC directed City Code Enforcement Officer, Doug Ide, to craft a draft ordinance for further review and discussion at the January meeting.*

**2. Marijuana Ordinance.** The ORC discussed the Council's response to proposed amendments to the existing marijuana ordinances.

*The ORC made two recommendations. The first was to support Councilor Wynne's suggestion that the hours of operation for adult use marijuana related businesses located in the Rural Farm District be reduced to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Related businesses in all other districts are allowed to operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

*The second recommendation asks the Council to decide whether to expand from two to three the number of adult use marijuana retail sales establishments in the Downtown District. The ORC is evenly split on this issue.*

*The three proponents believe the expansion is necessary to address an unfairness in the process. At the time the city's lottery was conducted the state had not yet issued adult use retail sales licenses and therefore parties interested only in selling adult use marijuana in Hallowell were ineligible to participate. Proponents believe the ordinance should be further amended to allow a current license holder to transfer to adult use sales license without first surrendering their medical sales authority and providing that all state and municipal permits and licenses are received and fees are paid.*

Opponents believe the change is unnecessary because all interested parties had the opportunity to apply for a medical license prior to the city's lottery. Furthermore, opponents of the expansion do not believe there is public appetite for creating a third license in the Downtown District. Instead, opponents believe that the two existing license holders should be allowed to transfer to an adult use sales license without first surrendering their medical sales authority and providing that all state and municipal permits and licenses are received and fees are paid.

**3. Short-term Parking.** The ORC was asked to explore and discuss the need to amend ordinances regulating the short-term 15 minute parking spaces on Water Street.

The ORC directed its chair to reach out to Chief Nason and Councilor Circo, chair of the city's Protection Committee, for more information. The chair will report to the committee in January.

**4. Water Street Sidewalks.** The ORC discussed the proposed Water Street sidewalk winter maintenance ordinance, which received a first reading at the Council's Dec. 9, 2019 meeting. Representatives of Cotton Mill residents raised concerns with the section of Academy Street between Water and Second Streets, which is extremely difficult to maintain and very icy during the winter months. Recommendations ranging from greater landowner involvement to alternative means for accessing Water Street were discussed.

The ORC voted to support a slightly amended version of the proposed ordinance, which was advanced to the Council for consideration. The committee also recommended that the Transportation Committee look into the concerns raised by the representatives of the residents of the Cotton Mill.

**Next Meeting:** Council Chambers on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.