

# Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

"Stay focused, go after your dreams and keep moving toward your goals." – LL Cool J

VOLUME LXVIII NO. 5

## Planners cool to ICO rezone

### More talk needed on business plans

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN  
CLIPPER REPORTER

Members of the Duxbury Planning Board last week expressed concerns about a plan to rezone the entire former Battelle property on Washington Street from residential to commercial zoning.

At a public hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 24, planning board members heard from Chris Sherman, president of Island Creek Oysters, about

the citizen's petition article his company submitted to the annual Town Meeting, which is March 10.

The article seeks to rezone 0, 397, 401 and 405 Washington St. from residential to neighborhood business 1. On Nov. 1, 2017, Island Creek Oysters paid \$8 million for this 11-acre property, which had been the site of Battelle Memorial Labs for 52 years. It

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Cinderella (Cal Petit deMange) shares a secret with her stepsisters, (Deb Cleary and Veronica Buell) while her vain and frivolous stepmother (Laurel Booth) eavesdrops.

Photo by Deni Johnson

## Bettering Duxbury gov't BOS supportive of study committee's efforts

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN  
CLIPPER REPORTER

Duxbury selectmen voted unanimously Monday night to support all but two of the nine annual Town Meeting articles presented by the Government Study Committee, and for those two they are awaiting input from the Finance Committee.

The Government Study Committee was appointed in 2015 by the town meeting moderator after town meeting approved the formation of the group. It was charged with studying the town's form of government, organizational structure and general bylaws.

The group is led by chairwoman Gay Shanahan who,

with committee member Gene Blanchard, explained the nine articles to selectmen at their evening meeting.

Article 20 is a complete revision of the general bylaws of the town. According to Blanchard, there were no substantial changes, just what he

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## Forums prepare town on pot

By JONATHAN PAPPALARDO  
CLIPPER REPORTER  
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Duxbury Police Department Chief Matthew Clancy is the latest town official to voice his support in favor of ban-



Duxbury Police Chief Matthew Clancy at the Duxbury Senior Center on Jan. 23.

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# Forums prepare town on pot issues

Continued from page 1

ning the growing, selling and manufacturing of recreational marijuana in town.

As he explained at a forum held last week at the Duxbury Senior Center co-sponsored by the Duxbury Police Department and Duxbury FACTS, an acronym for Families, Adolescents and Communities against Substances, three articles related to the banning of recreational marijuana will be up for a vote March 10 at annual Town Meeting.

Article 13 is a by-law prohibiting facilities for marijuana not medically prescribed. Articles 14 and 15 propose changes in zoning regulations. According to Clancy article 14 goes one step further than article 13 and prohibits facilities in all zoning districts in town. Article 15 cleans up the zoning by-law putting a “temporary moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers” which expired three years ago. Article 13 requires simple majority vote to pass while articles 14 and 15 requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

When sharing his perspective on the issue, Clancy said Duxbury provides a safe environment for children to grow up and launch into their adult lives. He praised the town’s strict zoning laws, which prohibit expansion without a special permit application. From a realtor perspective, he says, data is still being studied that suggests recreational marijuana facilities could have a negative impact on property values.

“Honestly,” he said, “that should be a concern to everyone of us.”

His bigger concern is the uncertainty of regulations at the state level. He says the Cannabis Control Commission has yet to determine how they will manage recreational marijuana.

“I don’t know what those regulations and implications are going to be,” he said. “Right now I’m just guessing they’re going to be similar or a little more detailed to what I deal with for alcohol.”

In terms of alcohol, Clancy is the enforcement agent for the Duxbury Board of Selectmen and he holds regular educational classes for all liquor license holders in town. He admits he is speculating, but he guesses similar actions will have to be taken with recreational marijuana.

“The brain continues to develop until about age 25,” said Anne Ward of Duxbury FACTS. “So for children and teens and young adults, marijuana has adverse effects on their learning, their memory, and the physical development of their brains. The science is solid on that.”

“I just know it’s going to be new, require additional training and vetting from legal council,” he said.

The regulatory uncertainty, he said, also extends to traffic laws. The law of applied consent, which says anyone pulled over under suspicion of driving impaired must submit to a breathalyzer or face suspension of their driver’s license, does not extend to marijuana. He also said there is no “per se limit” on the books like there is for alcohol at .08 percent. Chief Clancy said the commonwealth of Massachusetts could follow suit with Colorado and pass that state’s law, which says, “Drivers with five nanograms of active tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their whole blood can be prosecuted for driving under the influence. However, no matter the level

of THC, law enforcement officers base arrests on observed impairment.”

Clancy’s approach is to recommend residents registered to vote act at annual Town Meeting and pass the warrant articles and then hit pause to see what happens.

“All my colleagues are saying timeout. There’s regulatory uncertainty on the state level. We don’t even know what the federal government is going to do. This thing could be short lived,” he said. “Let’s pass the by-law, pass that zoning change, let’s clean up that old zoning issue and let’s be the thoughtful community that we always are, that I know we are. And a few years down the road, if somehow this environment dramatically changes and new information comes out, this is always something we can revisit. But right now, there’s way too much uncertainty.”

Anne Ward of Duxbury FACTS brought the conversation full circle back to children and youth.

“The brain continues to develop until about age 25,” said Ward. “So for children and teens and young adults, marijuana has adverse effects on their learning, their memory,

and the physical development of their brains. The science is solid on that.”

An audience member asked about the difference in potency between recreational and medical marijuana. Diane Henault-Tosi, of Carriage Lane, is a medical marijuana user and said it helps her ease pain and sleep at night.

“You don’t drive a car when you use marijuana,” she said. “It does take three hours to reach your system. There is no such thing as an overdose in marijuana. You don’t die from it.”

Clancy also wants people to know: “We’re not trying to run over the will of the state. We’re just trying to protect our own destiny, our environment here in Duxbury. We’re not saying that recreational

marijuana shouldn’t be available. It’s going to be readily available. There will be no impediments by us passing bans. You’re going to be able to get it in Plymouth; you’re going to be able to get it in Marshfield. We’re not taking your marijuana away from you if that’s what you’re looking for.”

The next chance for the public to learn about the warrant articles is Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Merry Room at the Duxbury Free Library, located at 77 Alden St. Clancy and representatives from Duxbury FACTS will be present, as will a physician who will speak about a study regarding findings from the first three years that recreational marijuana was legal in the state of Colorado.

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## 45th annual Winter Juried Show gala Feb. 3, opening Feb. 4

Join the historic Duxbury Art Association for a celebration, Saturday Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury.

The DAA’s 45th annual Juried Winter Show will open on that night for a gala reception. The next day, Sunday, Feb. 4, the show opens for viewing and will be on display through April 22.

This year, for consideration of inclusion in the juried show, submissions from across the country were received. The selected works will be displayed, along with a special exhibit of the DAA’s founding members’ art – John Singer Sargent, Charles Bittenger and Frank Benson, and Charles Woodbury.

The Feb. 3 gala includes a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres and live music by Anthony Geraci. Tickets cost \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at duxburyart.org.

From Feb. 4 to the end of the show, admission at The Art Complex Museum is always free of charge to the public.

The museum’s hours are Sunday through Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. The museum is located at 189 Alden St.

Black Tie Bingo!

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G44

N28

O72

“Thank you so much to our wonderful community for participating in this fabulous fundraising event. We were able to raise money to assist people with fuel this winter.”

“We will see you again next year!”



Proceeds benefited the Fuel Assistance for the Outreach Committee of the Duxbury Interfaith Council

