

Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT) Meeting Minutes



Application Number	CAN180013
Company Name	Andromeda Supply Company, LLC (“Andromeda”)
Date of MAT Meeting	January 22, 2019
Location of Meeting	Executive Conference Room
Property Location	1656 Worcester Road
Type of Application	Marijuana Retail Establishment

Attendance	
Beacon Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lori Sacco, Andromeda Supply Company Stacey Grillo, Andromeda Supply Company Victor Grillo, Consultant Attorney Joseph Antonellis, Antonellis Law James Sacco, Consultant Mathew Coveney, Esq., General Council John Rodrigues, Security Consultant, J. Gil & Associates
MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thatcher W. Kezer III, COO, Chair Robin Williams, Department of Public Health Chief Joseph Hicks, Fire Department Officer Keith Strange, Police Department Mary Ellen Kelley, CFO Jacquetta Van Zandt, Senior Advisory to the Mayor Michael Tusino, Building Commissioner, Department of Inspectional Services Amanda Loomis, Planning Board Administrator
Legal Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Zuretti, Esq., Petrini & Associates

Welcome and Introductions

Thatcher W. Kezer III, Chair, welcomed the group and provided a brief overview of how the Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT) would conduct the meeting and review the applications and materials provided. Mr. Kezer stated that the MAT’s function is to provide a recommendation to the Mayor for consideration of Host Community Agreements (HCA).

The members in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves (sign-in sheet attached).

Presentation of Andromeda Supply Company

Attorney Antonellis complemented the MAT on the application process that it has established for the preview of marijuana establishments and RMDs. Attorney Antonellis provided a review of Andromeda's proposed location, stating that 1656 Worcester Road is the best location for this particular use. The location is located on the eastbound side of Route 9 (Worcester Road), has two entrances/exits to the public way, and has no residential neighbors. The property directly abuts the MassPike, as is located near commercial uses to the west that include a gas station, a hotel, and a Dunkin' Donuts. The property is improved with an existing structure that is presently used by a restaurant. While the existing restaurant that occupies the space is still in operation, Attorney Antonellis stated that Andromeda has a Letter of Intent to lease the property.

Attorney Antonellis stated that the property has more than enough parking which is located on both sides and to the rear of the structure.

Attorney Antonellis stated that the team is made up of primarily Mrs. Grillo and Mrs. Sacco. Mr. Grillo stated that he has contributed to the City in the past, which included donations for bullet proof vests for the Police Department and that he intended to do so in the future. Mr. Grillo is a lifelong resident of Framingham. Mr. and Mrs. Grillo both presently reside in Framingham.

Mr. Grill stated that Andromeda is a unique company, in that the applicants are local and people that are known in the community and that, "the individuals that represent Andromeda are not here for fronts for other organizations." Attorney Antonellis stated that other marijuana businesses have multiple locations in other areas, where Andromeda is a Framingham-centered and Framingham- focused business.

Attorney Antonellis introduced Mr. Rodrigues as a specialist in security, noting that Mr. Rodrigues has guarded both "Popes and Presidents". Attorney Antonellis further stated that while members of the Andromeda team do not have experience in marijuana industry, and this cannot be covered up in the application, Andromeda does have experience in marketing and retail. Attorney Antonellis further noted that Mrs. Grillo is an accountant and Mrs. Sacco is an engineer.

Attorney Antonellis stated that Andromeda found a location that provides protection to nearby neighborhoods. He stated, in addition, that a City such as Framingham that has grown from a town to a city as it has, it is difficult to find a mixed-use location, with no adjoining street that connects to residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Grillo stated that he grew up in Framingham and provided an overview of the schools attended. Mr. Grillo stated that he is an entrepreneur by trade, and that he and Mrs. Grillo have started and sold many companies together. Mr. Grillo stated that they previously started a sold a company over on California Avenue in Framingham. Mr. Grillo stated that he presently lives on Doeskin Drive.

Mr. Grillo further stated that coming into the marijuana industry and business is unique experience for them. Mr. Grillo stated that he recently started and presently operates a company located in Waltham that services citizens with disabilities. The company focuses on serving as a liaison between a citizen seeking government assistance and the government. Mr. Grillo noted that his company is not paid by the people that the company helps but rather they are paid by the government. Mr. Grillo stated that they have heard from many of their clients that they presently self-medicate. Such an idea got them looking into the marijuana business.

Mr. Grillo stated that Mrs. Grillo has a passion for helping people and wanted to get back into the community. Mr. Grillo stated that they think there are some good things going on in the marijuana industry.

Mr. Grillo stated that he has been involved helping the community. Mr. Grillo listed some recent donations made to Framingham, which include bulletproof vests and helmet to the Police Department about two years ago, and prior to that have donated a product to help detect children predators. Mr. Grillo stated that he might donate a Police cruiser to the City in a year or so.

Mr. Grillo stated that Mrs. Grillo and Mrs. Sacco will own 100 percent the company.

Mr. Rodrigues state stated that he has made a career creating secure environments for people and things. Presently, Mr. Rodrigues has a business that protects high net worth people and their families, noting that security needs are always changing and that “whatever we did yesterday, we will do tomorrow –is not a good model for security”

Mr. Rodrigues further stated that some of his recent work includes the transfer of the nation’s gold reserves, items missing from the federal bank in Boston, protection of the Super Bowl, airport review committee to secure Logan Airport after the 9/11 attacks.

Mr. Rodrigues stated that he has done many different things and can bring a lot to the table and that although they do not have a security plan today, they will prepare one in the future. He stated that today is an introduction and a plan is pending what the company is doing moving forward. Mr. Rodrigues stated that he knows Mr. Grillo is the “big picture guy” for the business, and the Mrs. Grillo focuses more on the small details.

Mr. Grillo stated that Mr. Rodrigues was in the Secret Services for protecting the seven United States Presidents and the Pope.

Mr. Grillo stated that he wanted to add two quick things: First, that he understands traffic is going to be insane. The identified location is away from everything and there will be traffic issues. It will be a challenge having 100 vehicles lined up on Worcester Road, however, the site has more than enough off-street parking. The property at 1656 Worcester Road has more parking than other locations in Framingham. Secondly, that what Andromeda is looking to do is building something that Framingham can be proud of. Mr. Grillo stated that Andromeda is looking to build a very nice structure. Andromeda understands that they do not have a lot of

experience; however, everything that we do will be “best in breed”.

Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT) Review

Mr. Kezer thanked Andromeda for the presentation and turned the meeting for questions and comments from the MAT.

Chief Hicks stated that the location is good, which will help with traffic flow.

Mr. Tusino stated that he did not have any comments.

Mr. Kezer questioned Andromeda if they would be renovating or razing the existing structure to rebuild. Mr. Grillo stated that they would be renovating the existing structure.

Ms. Williams stated that the Health Department has their own regulations that would need to be complied with. Ms. Williams requested clarification regarding the type of establishment Andromeda would be operating. Attorney Antonellis stated that Andromeda would like to do both, but right now would be focusing on recreational adult use. Attorney Antonellis stated that the CCC regulations require separate grow facilities, which may change in March.

Officer Strange requested clarification regarding the off-street parking lot, as to whether the employees and customers would have separate off-street parking or shared. Mr. Grillo stated that they have not focused on that yet but will be preparing a site plan. Attorney Antonellis noted that they do feel there is enough off-street parking at the 1656 Worcester Road location and would be looking to max space.

Officer Strange requested that a public transportation plan be put into place. Officer Strange questioned what Andromeda would do with people while they waited for public bus transportation.

Officer Strange requested clarification regarding product delivery and where Andromeda would be getting product from. Mr. Grillo stated that they have chatted with a few vendors but have not identified a vendor yet. Mr. Grillo reviewed the delivery of the product, which would be delivered through the garage doors in the rear of the site.

Officer Strange requested dumpsters be locked and secured at all times.

Officer Strange requested a traffic management plan be prepared. Officer Strange stated that vehicles should not be stopping along Route 9 (Worcester Road) getting into the site. Officer Strange stated that the Police Department would be looking for a parking lot attendant to help direct people in and out and ensure that the product is not being sold in the parking lot.

Officer Strange questioned if Andromeda has prepared a pedestrian plan. There is a question as to how customers get between Wendy's and Dunkin' Donuts as there are presently no sidewalks on eastbound side of Route 9 (Worcester Road). Officer Strange stated that he does

not want to see pedestrians walking in the breakdown land of Route 9 (Worcester Road). Mr. Grillo noted that they have been talking about a connection path for pedestrians. Officer Strange requested that Andromeda come up with a safe option for pedestrians, cautioning that pedestrians may not use the crosswalk and that too many people may attempt to cross Route 9 from the Technology Park area.

Officer Strange requested clarification regarding the security plan, specifically requesting that cameras be installed on the counters at the point of sale. Officer Strange further requested that the Police Department's detective that is responsible for cybercrimes have an opportunity to review the computer an exterior camera be installed looking to the west and east of Route 9 (Worcester Road).

Officer Strange requested information relative to the delivery trucks that will be delivering products. Mr. Grill noted that the products would be picked up by Andromeda. Officer Strange questioned how many transport vehicles will Andromeda own, and Mr. Grillo stated that Andromeda would only have one vehicle to start. Officer Strange requested that Andromeda consider using multiple vehicles and that it prepare a plan to address vehicle that is disabled.

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Officer Strange requested a snow removal plan and an emergency plan for lock down or shelter in place.

Ms. Loomis stated that she did not have any comments.

Attorney Zuretti presented a series of questions that relative to site control, banking, and marketing of its product and asked for clarification regarding the lease for 1656 Worcester Road. She also asked if the lease is based upon Andromeda's receipt of the Host Community Agreement and other necessary approvals. Attorney Zuretti questioned if there had been any communications with MassDOT about using the park and ride for overflow parking.

Attorney Zuretti requested clarification regarding where Andromeda was banked. Mr. Grillo stated that Andromeda is presently not banked. Mr. Grillo noted that Andromeda has a line of credit with Mutual One, but there is an issue with depositing these types of funds. Mr. Grillo stated that that are looking into Century Bank and GFA in Gardner. Attorney Zuretti stated that Century Bank is not accepting funds from marijuana retail establishments and asked if Mutual One has made an affirmative statement that, it will receive deposits from adult use marijuana establishments.

Attorney Zuretti questioned how Andromeda would be marketing its product, whether the product would be in an open jar or prepackaged. Mr. Grillo stated that they have not decided or determine what the best way to market its product will be.

Attorney Zuretti questioned Andromeda how familiar they are with the local by-laws.

Attorney Zuretti questioned how Andromeda would be accepting funds from customers. Mr. Sacco stated that they would be utilizing Leaf Bit.

Attorney Zuretti requested information about the source of product that Andromeda would be selling. Mr. Sacco responded that they have been looking into an organization in Fitchburg.

Attorney Zuretti questioned when Andromeda was looking to start selling its products. Mr. Grillo stated that they would be looking at opening for third quarter of 2019. Once they have passed Framingham, they will start renovations while they work with the CCC. Attorney Zuretti noted that by General Bylaw, Framingham only has six opportunities for Host Community Agreements for marijuana retail establishments Mr. Kezer stated that applicants are responsible for “nailing down all of the unknowns” and “getting everything squared away.”

Closing

Mr. Kezer thanked Andromeda’s representatives for coming in for the MAT meeting. It was noted that any additional submittals, requests, and/or questions should go through Ms. Loomis. Mr. Kezer stated that there will be a series of MAT meetings over the next several weeks and recommendations will be made to the Mayor regarding HCA.

Voted by the MAT on April 10, 2019 (Vote 7-0-0)