MINUTES

1. Roll Call of Committee Members: Meeting began at 5 PM. A quorum of the members was present to conduct business.

2. Review and approval of November 6, 2019. Meeting minutes of November 6 were not distributed. Motion by Nelson Miller to table approval of the November 6 minutes; seconded by Chief Molis. All in favor, Motion passes unanimously.

3. Deliberations on the three CLEC applicants who presented for reconsideration. This meeting will be to deliberate on the three applicants who were recently re-interviewed: The Frosty Nug, Craft Cultivation and Keltic Green. At this stage in the process, three applicants have been moved forward (Standard Naturals, Mass Medicum and Misty Mountain Shop), two have held their community meetings and one candidate is in the process of holding their community meeting. One candidate is working to obtain their special permit. Ron Hogan has heard from other candidates who are wondering where they may stand. The process has many parts before licensing, is ongoing, and it will take time to be licensed to operate. The CLEC may issue a total of five licenses, one should be an economic empowerment application. Discussion ensued as to whether five candidates may be approved without the economic empowerment candidate being included in the five. The CLEC may do that, but all members may not vote that way.

   a. Chief Molis believes that Craft Cultivation Group, although still has a parking issue, had a great interview and answered all the questions and corrected their
deficiencies from the first presentation. He believes the potential enhancement to the property would be a positive and is favorable to them. This applicant would move forward with all three licenses, retail, cultivation and manufacturing. Diana Jeong and Nelson Miller were in agreement. Nelson believes they may obtain a variance for parking.

b. Diana Jeong and Chief Molis believe there should be at least one economic empowerment establishment. The social equity empowerment piece is not part of Malden’s ordinance. It was suggested to request that the City Council amend the ordinance since the economic empowerment program has ended.

c. Jenelle is favorable toward The Frosty Nug and believes the neighborhood could be more agreeable to a business being established across the street (from the Mass Medicum location). She doesn’t believe the CLEC should take the opportunity away from a social equity applicant or Malden resident who could succeed. Discussion ensued as to whether it makes sense to approve two candidates in such close proximity to one another. Nelson believes that it is the duty of the CLEC to decide who will best succeed and prefers to move one candidate forward tonight and leave an opportunity for a social equity/Malden resident.

d. Ron believes that CLEC’s responsibility is to move candidates forward that the CLEC believes will succeed and would prefer to not move another forward in the same location (as Mass Medicum) where there was such strong neighborhood resistance. The Eastern Avenue location (Craft Cultivation) is more geographically diverse than the Frosty Nug’s proposed location.

e. Motion by Chief Molis to move forward the application of Craft Cultivation Group, Seconded by Diana Jeong.
   o Discussion: Chief Molis reiterated that he was impressed with their presentation, professionalism, that they acknowledged and corrected their deficiencies, and have knowledge of the business. He likes the location and believes the person running the business has expertise and will relocate to this area. He liked the addition of Mr. Donohue to their team. All were in agreement. Ron has concerns about the parking issue, as it is not ideal.
   o Ron opened discussion about the three components of their three proposed uses – manufacturing, cultivation and retail. Chief Molis was impressed with the unique element that a quality product would be made and manufactured in Malden. Pure, organic, environmentally friendly from beginning to end. Clerk called the roll: Motion to approve the application of Craft Cultivation Group passed unanimously.

f. Motion by Jenelle DeVits to move the application of Frosty Nug forward.
   o Jenelle believes even though we don’t have economic empowerment, they are a social equity applicant even though there is another applicant going through this process across the street. Ron believes that sending two applicants forward in such close proximity at their expense is not the way to
go. He doesn't believe it is fair to the neighborhood. Nelson believes that the Frosty Nug’s conduct along the way has not been professional, and that they have not shown they would be a good fit for the city of Malden. Not approving an applicant today doesn’t mean they will never get approval. 
*Motion seconded by Diana Jeong. Clerk called the roll: Jenelle DeVits-yes; Diana Jeong-yes; Kevin Molis-no; Nelson Miller-no; Ron Hogan no. Motion to approve The Frosty Nug fails 3-2.*

g. Jenelle DeVits would like the City Council to review and update the ordinance with regard to social equity applicants. Ron agrees that the CLEC should present the City Council with an update on where the CLEC is in the process and also give them some feedback about the ordinance. The next CLEC meeting will be to debrief and to reach consensus on making recommendations to the City Council. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting along with the process moving forward.

h. Jenelle would like to invite DMS Trinity, a woman owned business back for another interview and asked if candidates who get approved to move on or fail at the next step will be allowed to cure defaults. Ron feels we should wait until we have the conversation to change the ordinance before inviting anyone else back. Ron would like to reach out to applicants that haven’t moved forward to tell them their status and depending on what happens with those currently moving forward, they may be called back. We may also reopen the process and bring new applicants forward.


5. Next Meeting December 4th at 5 PM at Senior Center.

*Motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM by Jenelle DeVits and seconded by Chief Molis. All in favor, meeting adjourned.*