



TOWN OF GROTON

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Select Board

Rebecca H. Pine, *Chair*
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Peter S. Cunningham, *Clerk*
Joshua A. Degen, *Member*
John F. Reilly, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON SELECT BOARD REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST ADULT USE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

The Town of Groton (the “Town”) invites interested parties (“Respondents”) to respond to this Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) by submitting a Letter of Interest in operating an Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Establishment in the Town. Selected Respondent(s) may be invited to negotiate a Host Community Agreement (HCA) with the Select Board (the “Board”) and move forward with the local permitting and licensing processes.

This is not a binding Request for Letters of Interest Proposals (RFLI), but an invitation for interested parties to submit an “Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Establishment Plan” to the Town. The Town will use the RFLI submittals to gauge interest and determine suitability of Respondents. Following analysis of the RFLI submittals, the Town reserves the right to enter into negotiations with Respondents to the RFLI for a HCA, or to revise its process in any way, including issuing a new Request for Letters of Interest or issuing an RFP. Respondents interested in any available licenses issued by the Cannabis Control Commission should follow this process.

The Town is accepting responses for available licenses issued by the Cannabis Control Commission for a Marijuana Retailer. The information provided will be evaluated by the Select Board, Town Manager, Land Use Director, Building Commissioner and Police Chief. The Town reserves the right to reject any letter of interest it deems to be incomplete, however it may, at its discretion, request that the omitted information or further clarifications be provided by the Respondent. Respondents may be asked to appear before the Select Board, in a posted public meeting, for an interview to present their information in person and respond to questions. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the Select Board may consider entering into a Host Community Agreement with the preferred respondent.

Respondents shall submit an electronic copy of its letter of interest to Town Manager Mark Haddad by Tuesday, November 30, 2021 by 4:00 p.m. at mhaddad@grotonma.gov. The subject line shall clearly state “**Letter of Interest, Adult Use Recreational Marijuana**”.

Each RFLI shall include the following information detailing the proposed Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Establishment Plan:

1. Cover Letter – Please submit a 1–2 page cover letter summarizing the Respondent’s proposal and indicating why the Respondent should be selected to operate a Recreational Marijuana Establishment in the Town.

2. Required Supporting Documentation

- a. Documentation that the entity applying for the Marijuana Establishment license with the CCC is an entity registered to do business in Massachusetts.
- b. Certificate of Good Standing, issued within the previous 90 days from submission of RFLI from the Corporations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- c. A list of all Persons or Entities having Direct or Indirect Control of the Marijuana Establishment, as defined in 935 CMR 500.002.
- d. Documentation detailing the amounts and sources of capital resources available to the Respondent from any individual or entity that will be contributing capital resources for purposes of establishing or operating the Marijuana Establishment.
- e. Documentation of the proposed address for the Marijuana Establishment and evidence of property interest or site control in the form of clear title, an option to purchase, a legally enforceable agreement to give title, or documentation evidencing legal authorization to use the premises, such as a lease or option to lease.
- f. Evidence that the proposed location complies with applicable buffer zones and zoning requirements in the form of a survey plan or GIS mapping showing the location and all properties and uses within applicable buffers as set forth in the Town's Zoning Bylaw.

3. Management and Operations Profile –

- a. Timeline for achieving operation of the Marijuana Establishment and evidence the Marijuana Establishment will be ready to operate within the timeline.
- b. Demonstration of Marijuana Establishment's plan to obtain liability insurance policy.
- c. Detailed operating policies and procedures from the Marijuana Establishment, including, but not limited to, the following (to the extent applicable to the proposed operations):
 - i. Security
 - ii. Personnel policies
 - iii. Prevention of diversion of cannabis to minors or the illicit market
 - iv. Cannabis storage
 - v. Record keeping and maintenance of financial records
- d. Qualifications of all Close Associates with managerial or operational control.
- e. Certification that no Person Having Direct or Indirect Control of the Marijuana Establishment has committed any offense(s) that would result in a Presumptive Negative Suitability Determination under 935 CMR 500.802 Tables B-D.
- f. Disclosure of ownership interest of any Person Having Direct or Indirect Control of the proposed Marijuana Establishment in any other licensed Marijuana Establishments within the Commonwealth or elsewhere (license pending or otherwise approved)
- g. Training plans for employees.

4. Plan for Positive Community Impacts:
 - a. Proposed hours of operation.
 - b. Proposal for ensuring the protection of public health.
 - c. A proposal demonstrating municipal benefits the Marijuana Establishment will provide to the Town, financial or otherwise.

5. Host Community Agreement:
 - a. Proposed terms in which Respondent will be willing to enter into a Host Community Agreement with the Town of Groton.

6. Town Process – The Select Board anticipates reviewing any submitted Letter of Interest starting during the month of December and may consider negotiating an HCA with a preferred respondent beginning in January, 2022. Once the HCA is approved, the Town anticipates the preferred respondent to begin the permitting process with both the Town and Cannabis Control Commission. The Town would hope that a recreational marijuana facility be open by July, 2023.