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**Date:** January 8, 2019

**To:** Mayor and Council

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**RE:** Zoning By-law Amendment Application ZBA/17/18 by  
Kapital Produce Ltd. – 1506, 1508 & 1526 County Road 34 & 1636  
Road 4 E, Part of Lot 21, Concession 4 ED, Parts 1 & 2, RP 12R 15280,

**Report No.:** PDS 2019-003 (Supplementary)

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## **AIM**

To provide Council with updated information regarding a request for a zoning amendment to permit a medical marijuana production facility as a permitted use, address relief or exemption from certain provisions under Section 4.46 of the Kingsville Zoning By-law and establish odour control provisions.

## **BACKGROUND**

In August of 2018 the application was presented at a public meeting of Council. (See Appendix F) The report outlined the requested amendment to the zoning on the subject property along with necessary relief from certain provisions of Section 4.46 Medical Marijuana Production Facilities of the Kingsville Zoning By-law. A decision on the application was deferred until a later date. The application was scheduled to be heard on October 9, 2018 however due to the overwhelming public attendance at that meeting the application was not able to be presented. The applicant was in attendance at the meeting and later requested in writing that the application be deferred until early 2019 so that they could review the public comment and provide additional information to Council. Lastly, since August the former Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) have been replaced with the Cannabis Act which will now provide regulation for both cannabis production (recreational and medical) and retail. The new Act still includes separate provisions for Part 1 and 2 production facilities however has not changed how they may be regulated locally.

At the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council administration was directed to undertake a review of the current Official Plan and Zoning By-law policies related to Medical Marihuana Production Facilities. In addition Council indicated that until this review is completed no additional approvals will be granted for the establishment of MMPFs. However, Council was also advised that applications received prior to September 24<sup>th</sup> must be presented to Council for consideration and a decision issued. Failure to provide a decision on a complete zoning application within 180 days of the application being deemed complete (July 24, 2018) can result in an appeal to the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal. Therefore, the application has been assessed on the basis of the policies in place at the time of its submission.

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposal specific to the subject property is to add a medical marihuana production facility as a permitted use utilizing up to 19.87 ha (49.1 acre) of existing greenhouse. (See Appendix A) For the proposal to proceed a zoning amendment is required to first permit a medical marihuana production facility (MMPF) as an additional site-specific permitted use on the subject property. Secondly, based on a review of the requirements under Section 4.46 of the Kingsville Zoning By-law partial relief or exemption is required from certain provisions, the details of which are outlined in the zoning section of this report. Lastly, the amendment will include odour control provisions that require a professionally designed system to be installed and operational prior to the start of growing. As supplementary information to the planning report the applicant has provided additional background in the form of a planning justification report (PJR) which is attached as Appendix B. The prospective operator of the greenhouse is also in the process of acquiring lands on the west side of County Road 34 which would operate in concert with the subject property. Those lands are part of a separate application for similar zoning approval.

### **1) Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2014:**

Both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs have recognized that medical marihuana production can be considered an agricultural use similar to a greenhouse or winery. As such the proposed zoning amendment would be consistent with Provincial Policy Section 2.3.

### **2) County of Essex Official Plan**

There are no issues of County significance raised by the application.

### **3) Town of Kingsville Official Plan**

The subject property is designated 'Agriculture'. The proposed application to rezone the parcel is for the retrofit or replacement of an existing greenhouse operation which is consistent with the MMPF policies develop through Official Plan Amendment #3.

### **4) Comprehensive Zoning By-law – Town of Kingsville**

The subject parcel is zoned 'Agriculture Zone 1, (A1)' by the Kingsville Zoning By-law. The specific zoning amendment required for the subject property is as follows:

- i) permit medical marihuana as a permitted use in the agricultural zoning specific to the subject property;

Comment: The Official Plan Amendment #3 specific to MMPF outlined that for an existing greenhouse facility to be used for medical marihuana production a site-specific zoning amendment would be required to permit that use. The Kingsville Zoning By-law was specifically amended as part of the implementation of the MMPF Official Plan policies to clearly outline in the Zoning By-law that medical marihuana production was not included as an agricultural use. Therefore, an amendment is necessary to add it to the specific zoning on the subject property.

Grant relief or exemption from the following Sections of 4.46 (Medical Marihuana Production Facilities - MMPF):

- i. item c) which prohibits residential uses on lots having medical marihuana production facilities;

Comment: To prohibit a residential use on an agricultural lot which is operating an agricultural use is not standard practice save and exception the prohibition of dwelling on lands that have been the subject of a surplus dwelling severance. In similar fashion a residential use is not prohibited on a farm parcel with a livestock operation. The assumption in this case would be that the resident in the dwelling is either the farmer or farm help who are aware of the impacts of the use.

- ii. item d) which prohibits a MMPF as a secondary /accessory use;

Comment: Anything of an agricultural nature, growing crops, raising livestock etc. is not considered an accessory use or even secondary it is part of a diversified agricultural operation. However, since the applicant may continue to utilize the other greenhouse facilities in the interim for continued vegetable production it is important to clarify this point.

- iii. item e) outlines that secondary/accessory uses must be 100% associated with the MMPF;

Comment: By definition the proposed facility on the subject property will not have any secondary or accessory uses associated with the MMPF.

- iv. item g) which requires a minimum distance separation of 100 m (328 ft.) between a MMPF and any structure currently used for residential or institutional purposes (dwellings, schools, churches etc.)

Comment: The 100 m (328 ft.) setback was established based on an MOECC best practices standard for the location of light industrial uses which is 70 m (230 ft.) This was then rounded to 100 m as a precautionary measure given the absence of real world potential impact from a MMPF. As there has been ongoing experience with ACMPR Part 2 operations in Kingsville and the Aphria operations in Leamington the principle impact has become evident in the form of odour generation. This

has more recently been further confirmed in consultation with other areas that have also seen interest in or development of medical marijuana facilities.

There are five dwellings which are located within the required 100 m setback. (1518, 1520, 1522 & 1524 County Road 34 and 1632 Road 4 E.). Since the August 13, 2018 meeting the applicant has reached an agreement to purchase the homes from the five impacted land owners that are within 100 metres of the proposed operation. Confirmation of this will be provided to Council by the applicant.

Mapping has been provided (Appendix C) which shows the impact of the 100 m setback on the existing greenhouse. The applicant has also provided details on the exclusion areas. (Appendix D) There is impact to the greenhouse however the applicant has also included details in the PJR that highlight the fact that not all stages of the plant growing process generate odour making it possible to utilize areas within the exclusion zones for other stages of growth. It is further important to understand that each stage of development in the plants is done in segregation of the other. Growing facilities for medical cannabis are subdivided internally to accommodate the various stages of growth. The traditional understanding of greenhouse vegetable production is considerably different from that of how cannabis production occurs.

- v. item i) require that the use of a MMPF on a lot not co-exist with any other use on the lot.

Comment: This is a limiting provision in the context of the definition of a MMPF. During the original development of the MMPF policies it was assumed that these facilities would be in industrial areas in large industrial buildings utilizing 100% artificial growing environments. These types of facilities draw a significant amount of energy through the use of grow lights. Now that greenhouse growing has become a possible alternative, utilizing nature light and supplementing with artificial it provides an alternative crop for greenhouse growers. However, as with any business, particularly farming, restrictions, which limit production to a single crop, limit the owner's ability to diversify the business. The limitation also would appear to be inconsistent with Provincial Policy that notes in Section 2.3.3 Permitted Uses, 2.3.3.1 states that, 'In prime agricultural areas permitted use and activities are: agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses. Section 2.3.3.2 also noted, 'In prime agricultural areas, all types, sizes and intensities of agricultural uses and normal farm practices shall be promoted and protected in accordance with provincial standards.'

With the above items in mind the zoning on the property will be amended to permit a MMPF on the subject lands. The amendment will also address each of the provisions in Section 4.46 which require relief or amendment as follows:

- i) item c) will be amended to permit residential uses accessory to or supportive of the agricultural uses on-site, including a MMPF;
- ii) item d), e) and i) will not be applicable to the subject property
- iii) item g) will be amended to exempt on-site residential uses from the 100 m setback requirement and off-site dwellings if any under the same ownership as the subject property.

As a final note regarding the zoning it is important to understand that the approval of the requested zoning on the property does not automatically permit a MMPF to start operations. Item a) of Section 4.46 requires the applicant to have a current valid Part 1 license issued by Health Canada prior to starting production. The applicants are aware of this and would need to proceed with the licensing process if the requested amendment is approved and they move forward with establishment of a MMPF.

In addition to the amendment to Section 4.46 the zoning on the property will include odour control provisions as a requirement of any MMPF establishment on the site.

Comment: It has been determined that there is a need to more directly address odour control as a requirement of zoning versus solely relying on site plan control or the Health Canada licensing requirements. Inclusion in the site-specific zoning amendment, particularly for MMPF establishments, will provide local input and enforcement without overstepping Federal regulations since Health Canada requires all Part 1 operations to maintain odour control of their operations.

The specific provisions in the by-law will require the installation of an air treatment control system that will incorporate the use of a multi-stage carbon filtration, or similar technology. This must be designed by a qualified person and the owner must demonstrate that the system has been installed and is operational as per the design specification prior to the start of any growing operations. As part of the design process for the odour control the owner will also be required to provide a maintenance schedule for the system to insure that it remains operationally efficient.

An additional aspect of odour control for MMPFs is the use of odour neutralization systems which are added to exhaust areas to supplement the main control system. As part of the ongoing public discussion there was some concern expressed about the possible control agents used to neutralize odours and what long-term impact they may have.

To address this the approach involves two steps. First to determine, as part of the odour control system design, if and what will be used for neutralization and second to require in the zoning provision that no transmission of odour control agents be permitted beyond the property line of the subject facility. This would apply to all control agents and would require that the products being used are approved for use by Health Canada or can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Town that there will be no negative impact.

## **Site Plan Approval**

As per Section 4.46 b) site plan control is to apply to MMPF. The subject lands do currently have an approved site plan and associated site plan agreement in place starting in 2006 with subsequent amendments in 2009 and 2010. As noted above the applicant does have a prospective purchaser for the property and will be proceeding with licensing, if approved. Once the formal licensing process is started the applicant should initiate the site plan amendment process. At that time issues such as fencing, lighting, buffering, landscaping and location of ventilation equipment will be incorporated as part of the amending agreement along with consultation with surrounding land owners.

It has also been established as standard practice that the site plan approval or amendment process for MMPFs will require a minimum security deposit of 50% of the total cost of the odour control system and lighting control along with any other requirement directly related to the establishment of the MMPF.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Support growth of the business community.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial considerations at this stage of the approval process.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

In accordance to O. Reg 545/06 of the *Planning Act*, property owners within a minimum of 120m of the subject site boundaries received the Notice of Open House/ Public Meeting by mail. The actual distance was increased to 200 m. Information of the proposed amendment was also posted to the Town website.

A number of comments were received at the time of the original presentation to Council and several of the property owners in close proximity raised concerns. Odour, fencing, proximity of the existing greenhouses, positioning on security cameras, exhaust fan locations, property values and lighting were the main concerns.

Comment: Odour control has been addressed as a requirement of zoning and outlines very specific regulations. Light, fencing, exhaust fan and camera positions will be included as part of the subsequent site plan amendment that are required.

As a result of the public notice for the Feb 11<sup>th</sup> meeting comment was submitted and circulated to Council from a property owner to the north of the subject property. (Appendix G) The main issue expressed in the letter was that of odour control and its impact.

Comment: The Town has developed a comprehensive odour control regulation for all zoning approvals for commercial cannabis production facilities. This includes the submission of a significant security deposit associated with the site plan approval and submission of detailed odour control plans including maintenance schedules.

## **Agency & Administrative Consultations**

In accordance with O. Reg 545/06 of the *Planning Act*, Agencies and Town Administration received the Notice of Public Meeting by email.

<b>Agency or Administrator</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Essex Region Conservation Authority Watershed Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment is attached as Appendix E</li><li>• No objections</li></ul>
County of Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The site has existing accesses to the County Roads. Any modifications, changes or requests for new access will require County approval and permits</li></ul>
Town of Kingsville Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Management Team has reviewed the request amendment and has not expressed any objections.</li></ul>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approve zoning by-law amendment ZBA/17/18 to:

permit a medical marihuana production facility on property located at 1506, 1508 & 1526 County Road 34 & 1636 Road 4 E;

address the required relief or exemption from specific provisions in Section 4.46 of the Kingsville Zoning By-law as defined in the amending by-law;

add odour provisions as outline din the attached amendment, and

adopt the implementing by-law.

*Robert Brown*

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*Peggy Van Mierlo-West*

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