



Town of Georgia

47 Town Common Road North. • St. Albans, VT 05478
• Phone: 802-524-3524 • Fax: 802-524-3543 • website: townofgeorgia.com

GEORGIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

MEETING MINUTES October 19, 2021

Board Members Present: Suzanna Brown, Gilles Rainville, James Powell, Rich Hamlin, Greg Drew

Board Members Absent: Cheryl Letourneau, Jenn Desautels

Staff Present: Emily Johnson, Zoning Administrator.

Others Present: Amy Brewer from Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition

DRB Chair Suzanna Brown called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Suzanna opened the floor to Amy Brewer to present on behalf of the Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition.

- Amy started by explaining who Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition is and what they do. Their goals are to help people quit tobacco, never start using tobacco, and limit secondhand smoke.
- There was discussion on what current state policies are in place and what some things local municipalities can do to help minimize the negative impact of tobacco on their residents.
- Suzanna asked about vaping. Amy explained that the state and federal government have had to update language that would include vaping. Tobacco and vaping pods are illegal to sell online, but due to the number of vaping companies, they are harder to shut down unlike other tobacco retailers. Rich pointed out that the trend of using tobacco went down in 2017 but went back up in 2019 and he asked Amy if she knew why. Amy indicated the introduction of Juul vaping products.
- Gilles asked if vaping is more potent than other tobacco products (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, etc). Amy explained that there are 20 cigarettes in a pack. One vaping pod is roughly equivalent to one pack of cigarettes. The major difference is in how they are used. It is much easier to vape than smoke cigarettes. Also, the habit of smoking cigarettes builds over time. A person works up to a pack a day. Vaping tobacco allows for individuals to get up to a pack a day level nicotine habit much quicker.
- Suzanna asked if Amy had any predictions for the yet-to-be reported 2021 data. Amy said that due to COVID-19, tobacco use has gone way up with adults. Some youth that were not super addicted and didn't have access to products, have reduced use. Noted earlier in

the conversation, most youth get tobacco from someone they know which could be a friend or family member.

- Amy was asked if there is an age that most smokers start by and she said that 90% of smokers start before the age of 18. Brains aren't fully developed until around the age of 25, so it is best to try and protect youth's developing brains and prevent tobacco use at younger ages.
- Emily asked if Amy has heard any feedback from applicants in municipalities that have additional tobacco regulations/anti-smoking policies. She said she did not have any details on hand but would email additional info

There were no public hearings.

Following review of minutes, Gilles Rainville motioned to accept the October 5, 2021, minutes with corrections. James Powel seconded. All were in favor. Greg Drew and Rich Hamlin abstained. Minutes were approved at 7:45 p.m.

Gilles Rainville motioned to go into deliberative session, Greg Drew seconded. All were in favor. The DRB went into deliberative session at 7:46 p.m.

Greg Drew motioned to exit deliberative session; Gilles Rainville seconded. All were in favor. The DRB exited deliberative session at 8:57 p.m.

Gilles Rainville motioned to end the meeting; Greg Drew seconded. All were in favor. The DRB meeting on Tuesday October 19, 2021, ended at 8:58 p.m.

Selectboard Concerns: None at this time.

Next meeting: November 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily R. Johnson, Zoning Administrator