



Wyckoff proposes stubbing nicotine sales to those under 21

BY REBECCA GREENE

CORRESPONDENT | WYCKOFF SUBURBAN NEWS

LAST UPDATED: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015, 12:31 AM

Wyckoff – Proposed laws governing smoking in public and the sale of smoking products within the township will be the subject of a public hearing on Nov. 2.

On Oct. 20, the Township Committee introduced an ordinance to restrict the sale of nicotine and tobacco products to individuals 21 years old and above, and another to prohibit smoking in public parking lots and driveways.

By a vote of three affirmatives and two abstentions, the committee is going in the direction of at least eight other New Jersey municipalities to restrict the sale of products, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other electronic smoking devices.

The smoking age statewide rose from 18 to 19 in 2006. There was legislation introduced in May 2014, currently stalled, to raise the state smoking age to 21.

Committeemen Brian Scanlan and Haakon Jepsen abstained, saying they had been given the ordinances just minutes before the meeting and did not have time to review the material. It passed with three votes from the five-man governing body necessary to move it to a public hearing and possible vote.

"There will be time for discussion, right?" Committeeman Rudy Boonstra asked.

Clerk Joyce Santimauro confirmed his question.

The amended ordinance to ban smoking in all public areas, including parking lots, passed by the same margin, with Scanlan and Jepsen abstaining

"I abstained because I will not vote on any ordinance that I have not been afforded the opportunity to read," Scanlan said in an email a day after the meeting. "I'm not opposed to banning smoking by young people under 21, but the devil is in the details, and I need to see the details before I vote. In the past we normally had time to review drafts and make suggestions, resulting in better ordinances. I drafted the original ordinance banning smoking in our parks, and I'm pleased to see that it is to be extended to include other areas. Again, however, I require the opportunity to read the changes before voting."

Scanlan said he does not agree with the approach to "vote now and suggest changes later," especially, he said, "if by definition to pass the ordinance on second reading in two

weeks, those changes have to be considered minimal."

In 2013, the committee banned smoking in outdoor public areas, but excluded parking lots and driveway areas.

Adhering to state law, the township already bans smoking inside public buildings.

The smoking ban would cover all township public parking and driveway areas, including the Memorial Field Complex, the Gardens at Wyckoff, the Zabriskie House/Museum, Zabriskie Pond and Zabriskie Park and Russell Farms Community Park.

Franklin Lakes, Mahwah and Waldwick have banned smoking in their public parks.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/business/new-law-would-stub-sales-to-all-under-21-1.1443296>