We, the undersigned registered voters of the town of Cheshire, petition the town of Cheshire's Select board to refer the following matter to the planning board, to amend and create language in existing zoning bylaws in accordance with MGL Ch40A Section 5 and to vote, at the annual town meeting, to amend the town of Cheshire Zoning By Laws or take any other action in relation there to:

## Marijuana Cultivation

1. It is the intent of this petition to have the planning board amend the existing Cheshire Marijuana bylaw related to cannabis/marijuana to reduce the adverse conditions that cultivating marijuana creates through enacting regulations including without limitation, restrictions to any cultivation, remove any permissive language allowing outdoor cultivation, to prohibit outdoor cultivation in order to preserve the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Cheshire. Any ambiguity in the amended bylaw should be construed in whatever manner best effectuates this intent, erring on the side of outdoor cultivation being explicitly prohibited.

## **Purpose**

- 1. The cultivation of marijuana outdoors, where it is often readily observable by neighbors and the general public, increases the risk of trespassing, burglary, and acts of violence in connection with the commission of such crimes or the occupants' attempts to prevent such crimes. Outdoor cultivation further makes the premises more prone to act as an attractive nuisance for children, and increases the likelihood of offensive odors traveling off the premises. Outdoor cultivation of marijuana is often associated with violations of local, state, and federal environmental laws and pesticide regulations, threatening to harm local waterways, degradation of the natural environment and ground water quality, and endangering to the public health and safety. The strong distinctive malodorous marijuana plant creates an attractive nuisance, alerting persons to the location of the valuable plans, and has resulted in burglary, robbery and armed robbery. The strong and distinctive odor of marijuana plants creates a need to ensure that smells that disrupt the use of adjacent properties are minimized.
- 2. Un regulated cultivation of marijuana both indoors and outdoors in the town of Cheshire can adversely affect the health, safety, and well being of the town, its residents, and the environment. Prohibiting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis/ marijuana is proper and necessary to avoid the aforementioned harms, and to preserve public peace, protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and businesses within the town of Cheshire. By creating new language and amending the existing language to the current Marijuana by law the planning board will help to prevent complaints of odor, crime and pollution threatened by the outdoor cultivation of Marijuana. Zoning laws should state that indoor cultivation shall not occur in any zone that includes residential. Outdoor cultivation shall be prohibited.

Name	Signature	Address
Justen Kruszpag		560 Stafford HII Ad
Leah Knisigna	Star Syr	5/20 Stafferd Hill Rd-
Levery Mclain		GOISTA HORD HILL RD
Kari Niching	Lais making	GOI Stafford Hill Rd.
Arlene Schneider	Urline Achreida	160 Stafford Hill Rd.
MOGENERAL	Magon Milosi	211 State of Hill Rd.
Joseph Milesi	Joseph Miles	211 Staffed HILRS.
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KAthleen Leveson	e fact do	674 North State R
Jehn Tremblay	The ()	41 Church F.
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595 collark Her

136 School St.