MEETING REPORT | VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY KRATOM LAW

Board of Trustees meeting | Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | Agenda item V(a), Local Law regarding Kratom | Unofficial summary of the Village's meeting video

AT A GLANCE

- **No vote.** The law was on the agenda as item V(a), "Consider approval of the Local Law regarding Kratom (resolution to be provided by attorney)." The Board discussed it for about six minutes and did not vote. A speaker said the resolution was still being worked on, based on feedback from the Board.
- **Public possession may go back in.** The Board asked on October 6 to take possession out of the law. On October 20 the Village's attorney asked for direction on public versus private possession, citing the Police Chief's recommendation on public possession. A trustee agreed with the Chief, and the attorney indicated the draft would be revised to include what the Chief recommended.
- **Enforcement is still an open question.** A trustee said the Board still has to answer how the law will be enforced, recalling questions from the October 6 meeting about testing and how officers would know what a product is. The attorney said identifying the substance is a law enforcement issue, not something for the local law. The trustee plans to take the question to the Chief before the next meeting.
- **Next.** A speaker said the law will be on the agenda next month, but no date was set. The Village calendar lists Board meetings on Tuesday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. The revised draft isn't public yet.
- **What the draft would do.** The version read at the October 6 hearing would add Chapter 50, "Drugs and Drug Products," to the Village Code, prohibiting the sale, distribution and possession of kratom products in the Village, plain leaf included. That night the Board asked to widen its definition to cover 7-OH and "any other natural or synthetic ingredient or derivative of the kratom plant." Fines run up to $1,000 for a first offense, $2,500 for a second, and $5,000 or revocation of a permit or license after that. Each day counts as a separate offense.

BOARD DISCUSSION | 1:29 TO 1:36

- **No vote yet.** As the item opened, a speaker told the Mayor the Board would not vote that night: "They're still working on the resolution based on some feedback we received from the board." [1:29:53, 1:30:00]
- **The Mayor's view.** Citing what he saw in his career of what drugs do to kids and to people, the Mayor said, "I don't want any of that stuff here," and that he does not want kratom sold in the village: "Somewhere else. Not here." He added, "I'm just one of five people." [1:30:12, 1:30:28, 1:30:47, 1:31:16]
- **Public possession.** When the Mayor moved to the next item, a speaker asked, "We're not discussing it at all?" The Village's attorney then asked the Board for direction on "whether you want public possession versus private," noting the Police Chief's recommendation on public possession. A trustee agreed with the Chief, saying there's "not as much room for litigation," and appeared to contrast that with possession in private homes. Asked whether the law is meant to be only a civil matter, a speaker answered, "No, not if we put public possession back in." [1:32:11, 1:32:31, 1:32:55, 1:33:12]
- **Enforcement and testing.** A trustee said the Board still has to answer "how will it be enforced." The trustee noted that possession was out of the copy at the last meeting, that speakers had raised how possession would be

enforced, a concern the trustee called valid, and that it was now being added back without that answer. When the attorney said the latest draft sets out violations and penalties, the trustee said there had been a discussion the attorney missed about "how to be tested, how they know if it's real," adding, "Are they going to chase a child?" A speaker, apparently the Mayor, said, "There's tests that are done right on the street."
[1:33:20, 1:33:29, 1:33:46, 1:33:54, 1:34:06]

- **Revised draft.** The attorney indicated the draft would be revised to include what the Chief recommended and presented to the Board. A speaker said, "So that will be on the agenda next month." [1:34:36, 1:34:50]
- **The attorney's answer.** When the trustee raised evidence and identification, the attorney said, "That's law enforcement issues," and that the legal concern is that the violation is on the books and can be enforced. On identifying a substance, the attorney added, "That's not for this local law." [1:34:52, 1:34:58, 1:35:07, 1:35:17]
- **Taking it to the Chief.** The trustee answered, "So I'll take that up with the Chief then, because I don't want to vote for another law, like we said with the ATV law, that then they stand up here and say they can't enforce." The attorney indicated more changes could follow after hearing from the Chief. [1:35:20, 1:35:32]

PUBLIC INPUT

- **Public Portion.** Near the end of the meeting, a member of the public said that since the last meeting the New York Post and the Wallkill Valley Times had each run long articles on kratom, and that he did not "see anything positive whatsoever." He said he understood that "the law has to be written out in a very specific way so that arrests can be made and stick," and urged the Board on: "let's get to work, everybody."
[2:41:32, 2:41:48, 2:41:54, 2:42:04]
- **Handout.** Before the meeting, Hudson Valley Botanicals gave the Clerk a set for each Board member and the attorney: model language that would ban products over the State bill's 7-OH limits and lab-made analogs instead of all kratom, with a copy of Dutchess County's Local Law No. 6 of 2026. The Clerk handed them out to the Board. They did not come up in the discussion.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- The attorney indicated the draft will be revised to include the Police Chief's recommendation on public possession, and a trustee plans to take the enforcement question to the Chief before the next meeting.
- A speaker said the law will be on the agenda next month. The Village calendar lists Board meetings on Tuesday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 17, both at 6:30 p.m. (checked October 21). Check the location before you go; the October 20 meeting was held at the Senior Center.
- Once the revised draft is on an agenda, the State's Open Meetings Law calls for it to be available on request, and posted online, to the extent practicable at least 24 hours before that meeting. It was not yet public as of October 21.
- If you live in the Village of Montgomery, consider writing to the Board in your own words before then. Residents' views carry the most weight. Contact details are on the Village website, villageofmontgomeryny.gov.
- Watch the meeting: youtube.com/watch?v=GFv9KMkx3AM. The kratom item starts at 1:29:30.

About this summary. Prepared by Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC from a machine transcript of the Village's YouTube video. Wording is approximate, and some voices could not be identified with certainty, so speakers are identified by role, or as "a speaker" where the voice is unclear. Times are shown as hours:minutes:seconds into the video; check the video at those times before quoting anyone. The draft's terms are from the version read at the October 6 hearing. Hudson Valley Botanicals sells kratom leaf products and, as a seller, has a stake in this law.