

To: Natick Select Board
From: Paul Joseph
Re: Proposed, "First Phase" Alcohol Policy Changes
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022

At its July 26, 2022 meeting, the Alcohol Policy Working Group identified recommendations for the Select Board to consider in the near-term, assuming a two-phased approach to the forthcoming, comprehensive policy revision.

These "first phase" recommendations include (a) changes that require a Home Rule Petition(s) and which could be brought to 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting; and, (b) other changes that could be enacted by the Board by vote at a Public Hearing, taking immediate effect and having near-term impact on the Town's attractiveness to new and expanding businesses that require on-premises licenses to serve alcoholic beverages.

For tonight's meeting, the working group requests the following considerations of the Board:

- 1) Please sponsor two Articles on the 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant seeking two Home Rule Petitions: one to eliminate the minimum seating requirement of 15 seats for an On-Premises Malt Beverage and Wine license and one to eliminate the minimum seating requirement of 100 seats for an On-Premises All-Alcohol license.

There is still some question as to whether we need one or two Articles to achieve these desired changes and I have asked Donna Donovan and Town Counsel for help confirm where things stand. Therefore, if the Board is comfortable with the following approach, I'd appreciate its support:

At tonight's meeting, please consider the following motions:

- a) "move to place two articles on the 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting warrant, one Article to eliminate the minimum seating requirement of 15 seats for an On-Premises Malt Beverage and Wine license and another Article to eliminate the minimum seating requirement of 100 seats for an On-Premises All-Alcohol license," and
 - b) "move to authorize the chair to draft specific language for each Article in consultation with Town Counsel and staff and to submit these Articles for inclusion on the 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant."
- 2) Please vote to schedule a Public Hearing for the Select Board's next regular meeting planned for August 24, 2022. I will provide more details as we plan the agenda for that meeting; however, for your consideration tonight, and in reference to our previous meetings on the subject, the current plan is to recommend the following actions to be deliberated and decided on the night of the 24th:
 - a. Eliminating the Board's current policy requiring that an establishment with an on-premises alcohol license to not generate in excess of 35% of its annual revenue from alcoholic beverage sales;

- b. Establishing a B.Y.O.B. license option for local establishments whose primary business is derived from either preparing and serving food (e.g. restaurant with a Common Victualer's license) and/or some other, non-food and beverage service (e.g., activity-based entertainment such as guests creating arts and crafts);
- c. Requiring "in-person" server responsibility and intervention training (e.g. TIPS) for businesses established in Natick businesses while allowing for "online" or "virtually" certified servers for caterers and like businesses that apply for, or are hired under, a one-day special permit;
- d. Allowing the service of draft beer in pitchers not to exceed 64 oz. in size for parties of two or more guests. For parties exceeding three guests, additional pitchers may be served but not in a quantity that exceeds one pitcher per three guests; and,
- e. Considering whether to allow licensed establishments to offer either (a) food prepared on premises and/or (b) prepared/prepackaged food available on premises in addition to prepared food offered from an off-premises vendor (e.g. food truck, local restaurant via delivery service, etc.)

We will provide additional information in advance of the next Board meeting to support these specifically-proposed changes.

Thank you.