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MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2020
6:00 P.M. - Waterford Town Hall
ZOOM Remote Access Only

The September 24, 2020 Special Meeting of the Public Health, Recreation & Environment Committee of the RTM was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Bracciale at 6:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jennifer Bracciale, April Cairns, Nicholas Gauthier, Robert Swansen

Absent: Steve Elci

Also Attending: Town Clerk David Campo, Recreation & Parks Director Brian Flaherty, Planning Director Abby Piersall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AGENDA ITEM 5

MOTION by Cairns, seconded by Gauthier, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2019 meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEM 6A: Possession & Drinking of Alcohol on Town Property

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Cairns, seconded by Gauthier, to open discussion concerning Draft 1, "proposed changes to the Waterford Code of Ordinances Chapter 12.08 concerning the possession and drinking of alcohol beverages in town parks and recreation areas. (RTC 08-03-2020)

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Much of the discussion centered on the approval process, insurance, enforcement.

MOTION by Cairns, seconded by Gauthier, to table the issue until the next meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEM 6B: Review/Evaluate Beach Fee Pricing

Discussion ensued.

Committee along with Recreation & Parks Director Brian Flaherty discussed Waterford Beach access pricing and fees and agreed that the discussion would continue at the next meeting.

MOTION by Cairns, seconded by Gauthier, to adjourn at 7:00 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Campo, CCTC
Town Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas Dembek, Moderator, Waterford Representative Town Meeting

FROM: Abby Y. Piersall, AICP, Director of Planning and Development

DATE: July 21, 2020.

TITLE: Proposed Changes to the Waterford Code of Ordinances Chapter 12.08 Concerning the possession and drinking of alcoholic beverages in town parks and recreation areas.

This request is to consider the potential to allow the possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages at recreational facilities during special events approved by the Board of Selectmen. Alcohol is currently prohibited at Town facilities. This change would enable events such as concerts, fundraisers, or festivals to include the sale and consumption of beer or wine. The change would not enable possession of alcohol at school properties or on beaches.

Changing this Ordinance is a key step in reducing restrictions on the range of events that can be held on town properties. The addition of carefully planned service of wine or beer can help broaden participation in Waterford events and draw new attractions to Town. Enabling sanctioned alcohol consumption in public places supports ongoing efforts increase the frequency and diversity of dynamic and vibrant events in Waterford. Events like dinners at the historic Jordan Green, summer concerts at the Waterford Beach Park, or craft beer and wine tasting at the Farmers Market could be permitted if the Ordinance is changed.

As proposed, the change would only allow beer and wine to be available as sanctioned on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Selectmen.

Section 12.08.040 currently reads:

The possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages in any town park and recreational area, including Waterford Beach, is prohibited.

Proposed language for 12.08.040 is:

The possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages in any town park and/or recreational area is prohibited, except as provided below:

- A. Possession and drinking of beer and wine may be permitted at locations and times as approved by the Board of Selectmen. In no case will the possession and drinking of beer and wine be allowed on the sand or dunes of any beach.

6A
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