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# Amesbury

## Traffic and Transportation Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2022  
Start: 7:09 PM Virtual Meeting  
Attendees: Lauren Tirone, Robert Desmarais, Christopher Falcos, James Nolan, Christine Miller. Absent: Jonathan Hickok and Owen Corcoran.

### New Business

- Review applications for outdoor dining installations on public ways for The Morning Buzz, Barking Dog, Wiseman Coffee and Silvaticus by Angela Cleveland.
  - Angela was in attendance and presented a PowerPoint presentation titled City of Amesbury Outdoor Dining 2022 & 15-Minute Parking.
  - Process for 2022 Outdoor Dining: Restaurant Applications submitted by March 25<sup>th</sup> resulted in 7 applicants however not all required special transportation or barriers in the streets or parking spaces so they will not be discussed at this meeting.
  - On March 31<sup>st</sup> the Liquor License Commission (LLC) voted to allow public consumption of alcohol at 6 establishments (the 7<sup>th</sup> establishment does not serve alcohol) pending TRC and TTC approval and progress on getting permanent ABCC approval for extension of area. TRC review applications on April 19<sup>th</sup> and voted to approve 3 out of the 4 applications in front of the TTC. The TTC will be reviewing those same 4 applications tonight. The OCED will work with the DPW to begin installing jersey barrier for approved applications on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - First application is the Barking Dog, 21 Friend Street, and the owner, Jeffrey Nahas was in attendance. They are again requesting the use of the sidewalk, like last year which will have 8 tables (55 guest capacity) and will be the same footprint as in the past. Third year applying. Received LLC approval on March 31<sup>st</sup> and TRC approval (needs TTC approval).
  - Install jersey barrier at entrance (exit only) and install jersey barriers to delineate pedestrian traffic. Enter and exit from Friend Street Parking Lot past Morning Buzz.
  - Brewery Sivaticus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> application, 9 Water Street and owner, Jason Bullen was in attendance. They are requesting 2 parking spaces on Water Street, one for seating and one for bike racks. Six tables with 24 guest capacity. Their driveway area will also be seating. Smaller footprint than 2020 and 2021. Received approval from LLC on March 31<sup>st</sup> and approval from TRC on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Third year applying. Needs approval from TTC.

- Third application is for the Morning Buzz, 37 Friend Street. Same footprint as last year and it's their 3<sup>rd</sup> year applying. Requesting 5 spaces in the Friend Street parking lot and will accommodate 6 tables with a 24 guest capacity. Received approval from the LLC on March 31<sup>st</sup> and by the TRC on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Needs TTC approval.
  - Fourth application is for Wise House Coffee Roasters, located at 15 Friend Street. Request two public parking spaces on Friend Street. Formerly combined with Holiday Wine Bar. Applied in 2021 and occupied 3 parking spots (reduced footprint from 2021). Did not receive LLC approval (not requested, no alcohol being served), not approved by TRC, and requires TTC approval. TRC felt like there were safety issues and would turn it over to James Nolan to comment. James stated that they felt where the jersey barriers narrow the street in that area along with the congestion and speed of vehicles going up the street that it was unsafe and it was not advantageous for the spaces to be taken. According to James the TRC also felt that the use of those spaces for outdoor dining was more of a convenience than a necessity and it was a unanimous vote by the TRC not to approve it.
  - Chris asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on the item. Jeffrey Nahas spoke and said that the outdoor dining really does help and it is appreciated. Jason Bullen from Silvaticus also agreed that having those barriers for their space as crucial to their business. Councilor Nick Wheeler was also in attendance and stated that he personally was in favor of all four that are being requested. Nick also commented that the one that was along Friend Street is problematic because the City has already approved it two years in a row so to change that right now seems concerning to him and to rescind that without something having changed from last year is concerning and to protect the City from liability I would be careful if you were going to reject one on the basis of convenience when it was already approved twice. James said convenience was part of it but it was more based on a safety standpoint due to the speeds of vehicles and narrowness of the roadway in that area. Nick said he understood but the congestion and speeds haven't changed and to change your minds now without something having changed seems arbitrary and there may be grounds for liability on the City's part.
  - There were no other comment from the public and Chris opened up the discussion to the members of the committee. Lauren just had one thing to add and that was in reference to the Silvaticus approval. Lauren wanted to make sure that the food truck that serves food in front of the business has the window facing the sidewalk and not out into the street so patrons are not standing in the street waiting for food. Jason stated that would not happen again this year and that they had a new vendor this year. There were no other comments from the committee.
  - James made a motion to approve the applications for the Morning Buzz, Silvaticus, and the Barking Dog, but not Wise House with Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chris stated he understood Nick's concerns however he always considers safety paramount and votes on the side of safety and agrees with Jim's motion. There were no other comments. Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Jim-yes). Motion passes
- Review current temporary 15-minute spaces and determine whether they can become permanent by Angela Cleveland.

- Current temporary 15-minute spaces: 1 China Star/Health Matters (105 Main), 1 at 12 Friend Street, 1 at the Barking Dog (15 Friend Street), 2 at Pizza Factory (36 Friend Street), 1 at the Morning Buzz (35 Friend Street), 1 at Board and Brush (25 Main Street) and 2 at Busy Bee (40 Market Street).
- Interested in Permanent Signs: 1 China Star/Health Matters, 1 at 18 Friend Street, \*1 at Barking Dog, \*1 at Pizza Factory, \*1 at Morning Buzz, \*1 at Board and Brush (move it 1 spot back from where it is currently), and \* at Busy Bee.  
\*Confirmed Interested. Angela stated she did talk to the TRC about this as well for their feedback. These would be permanent with permanent signs.
- Chris opened it up to public comments. Councilor Nick Wheeler wanted to comment on the fact if these were temporary changes then the TTC would be the best ones to make that recommendation but if you are permanently amending the parking regulations, the TTC does not have the legal authority to do that unilaterally, the City Council has that authority. Nick stated he mentioned this to the Mayor and the Police Chief and thought he had spoken to Owen after the last TTC meeting when there was an appeal regarding the speed bumps on Spindle Tree. In 2015 the City Council amended the regulations that govern the traffic committee and it was amended again and the TTC was made an advisory committee. This was as a result of the change of Clarks Street to one-way and there wasn't a way for the Mayor to overturn the TTC's decision short of someone appealing it. So the TTC can only make non-regulatory actions. But if the TTC is looking to change the traffic regulations, it would have to make that recommendation to the Council and they would have to receive a bill (would have to be drafted by the administration) and it would have to be voted on by City Council. The cleanest way would be for a bill to be presented to City Council for a first reading, then it would be sent back to the TTC for their recommendation, then sent back to the City Council for a second reading then adopt it. It would be an amendment to the section regarding the 15-min spaces to add those spaces to the traffic regulations. Lauren asked who would have to write and submit the bill, and would it be the applicant. Nick stated that the Mayor's office would sponsor it and one of the members of the Council would construct the bill. So in the future if the request came to the Council first it would be easier, because they could write the bill and present it to the TTC for their recommendation and then it would be sent back, have a public meeting then vote on it. James commented that most of what is brought before the TTC is mostly regulatory, so to eliminate it coming to us first and going to the City Council seems like that would be the best procedure. Nick agreed. James stated that this would make the process longer to get things accomplished and that the Council only meets once a month. Nick stated they are in the process of changing how often the Council meets a month and that they are trying to meet twice a month in the future. Chris asked Nick that if he asked for a motion it would be to recommend that we approve the item and bring it to the City Council. Nick stated in his opinion he would recommend approval if the committee is ok with the change and ask the Mayor's Officer to draft a bill for the City Council to actually amend the parking regulations.
- Lauren made a motion to recommend approval for the 5 confirmed 15-minute parking spaces that were discussed. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Jim-yes, Lauren-yes, Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes. Motion passed.

Next meeting scheduled for May 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:39p.m.