

Selectmen's Meeting
December 28, 2009
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were Michael Donaroma, Chairman; Margaret Serpa; & Arthur Smadbeck. Also present was Town Administrator, Pamela Dolby.

At 4:00 pm Mr. Donaroma opened the public hearing for Détente to alter the premises on their liquor license to include service on the second floor where they intend to add on to the restaurant.

Ms. Suzanna Crowell, owner, was present and stated that the restaurant would lose 8 seats on the first floor and add 22 seats on the second. This would add 14 seats total.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the board understood that the project had already been to and approved by the Zoning Board.

There being no further public comment, Mr. Donaroma closed the public hearing at 4:04 pm. Ms. Serpa moved to approve the alteration to the liquor license. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:05pm Mr. Donaroma opened the public hearing for an Annual Package Goods Store License for the sale of Wine and Malt beverages for Sophia's One Stop Mart, Inc. at 199 Upper Main St.

Mr. Donaroma asked the applicant if he understood the rules and regulations associated with the license.

Mr. Rodrigues replied that he did.

Mr. Jamison Loveday from Your Market opposed approval of the application. He thought it would give the young people another place to purchase liquor.

Mr. Louis Paciello pointed out that there had been a prior establishment at the location that had a liquor license with no issues.

Mr. Donaroma stated that there was a letter of correspondence on the matter from Ben Hall Jr. owner of Great Harbor Gourmet & Spirits. He opposed any new establishments due to the down economy and he felt there were enough liquor stores already in place.

There being no further public comment, Mr. Donaroma closed the hearing at 4:08.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that this was not new. That there had been a liquor establishment at the same location before without issue.

Ms. Serpa moved to approve. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:10 pm Mr. Donaroma opened the floor to Mr. Ron Minkin, owner of MV Transport and Tours. Mr. Minkin would like to give tours on a ticketed route in minibuses instead of the taxi vans he uses now on a charter basis. The buses would be larger than a 15passenger taxi but smaller than a full size school bus.

Mr. Donaroma asked what the season would be.

Mr. Minkin replied May to November 1st.

Ms. Serpa refers to Police Chief Paul Condlin.

Mr. Condlin stated that a charter doesn't need a street license, but a ticketed tour does. He asked the applicant if he had a license from the Town he was starting the tours in yet and suggested he should get that before asking Edgartown.

Mr. Minkin replied that he did not have a license from his departure Towns.

Ms. Serpa told Mr. Minkin that his request seemed premature and he should return when he has the proper licenses from the other Towns.

Mr. Donaroma then gave the floor to Mr. Barry Lopez of “Native Island Tours”. He would also like to start giving ticketed tours and would like a street license to do so in trolleys.

Mr. Condlin stated that Church St. is quite busy enough in the summer and could not take the load of another tour company and there was an agreement in 1984 that no tour buses were to go down North Water St.

Mr. Lopez stated that he was aware of how small the roads were and felt that the trolleys would be a better fit than the painted school buses of another tour company.

Mr. Smadbeck suggested that Mr. Lopez sit down with Mr. Condlin and try and come up with a solution.

Mr. Condlin stated that he saw no solution at this time with the current system, but was willing to sit down with Mr. Lopez.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the Board had a hard balancing act with tours. There was only so much room but that Mr. Lopez’s idea was not a bad one and wished him good luck.

Mr. Donaroma then gave the floor to Ms. Alice Boyd of Bailey, Boyd, and Associates. She and Ms. Melissa Vincent were present to update the Board on the RCD Block Grant the Town along with other island Towns had received to help residents who can’t afford to fix their houses do so.

Ms. Vincent stated that the need is greater than originally thought. The qualifying families are under 80% of Median Income and can get repairs of up to \$35,000 to fix major issues that they couldn’t otherwise afford. She explained that they would be given a 15 year loan that would go down by 1/15 each year with no payments required. As long as the house doesn’t sell to a non-family member in that 15 years the loan would be over at the end. If the property did sell to a non-family member, the loan balance would be paid at the sale. That money from the payback would go to the Town. Last year they used some of the monies to pay for children from families with under 80% Median Income to go to summer camps.

Mr. Smadbeck asked if it was possible to help people utilize solar.

Ms. Boyd answered not this year, but perhaps in the future. She stated that Chilmark wants to join next year and with the extra money would like to fund subsidies for childcare for families with under 80% Median Income. This will not cost the Town anything. She would like the Board to vote to authorize Ms. Dolby to sign the grant application.

Ms. Serpa moved to authorize Ms. Dolby to sign the grant application to continue the grant as described. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby then gave her weekly update. She started by stating that she had a discussion with the auditor about the Library article for Town Meeting and that there are a number of issues. He will meet with the Library sometime in the first two weeks in January.

She stated that Ms. Melissa Kuehne, Tax Collector, had come upon and fixed a major Munis issue.

Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn at 5:10 pm. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Kristy Rose
Assistant

Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman

Margaret E. Serpa

Arthur Smadbeck
Board of Selectmen

December 14, 2009