

**Special Select Board Meeting**  
**Mount Holly Town Office**  
**May 11, 2023**  
**5:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Billy Austin, Caitlin Boyle, Jeff Chase, Philippe Crane, Katy Crane, Donna DeAngelis, Craig Fortier, Maria Fortier, Diana Garrow, Carol A. Garrow-Woolley, James Heald, Robert Herbst, Jane Hill, Emily Clifford Jackson, David Johnson, Millicent R. Johnson, Jon McCann, Donna McDonald, Joseph McDonald, Stephen Michel, Barbara Pallotte, Patti Plew, Kevin Plew, Christine Pratt, Rhonda E. Rivers, James Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Andy Tanger, Marcy Tanger, Daniel Tilly, Mark Turco, Ron Unterman, Laura Watson, Rick Watson.

1. **Call to order at 5:02 pm.**
2. **Considerations of any changes or additions to the agenda.** None.
3. **Discuss Mount Holly Beer Company (MHBC) Plans for Memorial Day Weekend Event:** Mr. Daniel Tilly, owner of the Mount Holly Beer Company, indicated that he was planning to host an event over Memorial Day Weekend for the local residents and community, and that he did not anticipate more than 20 attendees.

Mark Turco noted that the Select Board has concerns—and has received concerns from members of the community—regarding the possibility of a multi-day event hosted by the Mount Holly Beer Company on Memorial Day Weekend.

Mr. Turco expressed specific questions regarding the company's failure to adequately enforce event boundaries and monitor alcohol consumption during its event at Cider Days in October 2022. He provided photo documentation of instances in which attendees at Mr. Tilly's most recent event did not adequately contain guests within a designated boundary. Mr. Turco further explained the requirements of a festival liquor permit, which include rules regarding event size, boundaries, admission fees, maximum serving sizes, etc.

4. **Questions:**

Ms. Rhonda Rivers asked about parking plans and bathroom facilities, and about what recourse the Select Board may have if requirements of an issued festival permit were not met.

Mr. Billy Austin, Fire Chief of Mount Holly Fire Department, expressed a concern that parking would block the street; he noted that passage must be available for the Fire Department trucks and apparatus.

Mr. Tilly noted that he planned to have two porta-potties on site. He noted that he could keep cars off site if necessary, by shuttling attendees back and forth with a Sprinter van, to and from a property his family owns near the Crowley fields.

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Mr. Kevin Plew noted that he believed the right-of-way off of the property in question is for residents only, and not for guests. He added that he does not believe that Belmont Village is a good site for an event.

Mrs. Kathy Crane noted that she was not interested in Belmont becoming a site for a beer festival, and noted that many other residents felt similarly.

Mr. Ron Unterman noted that the event sounded like an event that would attract more than 20 people, and needed further logistical planning. He said he understood what Mr. Tilly would like to do, but felt there needed to be more foresight and consideration of logistical challenges, including parking.

Mr. Plew noted that the MHBC's social media following is substantial and does not indicate a small gathering. He reaffirmed that he supports the MHBC and the idea of an event, but does not support it in the way it was being conceived by Mr. Tilly.

Bob Herbst asked whether the SB needs to issue an approval for the event to take place. Select Board Chair Mark Turco noted that the Select Board does need to approve a "festival permit" from the state liquor control agency in order for the event to take place as described.

Millicent Johnson asked whether private property owners are required to secure a permit if they serve alcohol on a private property. The Select Board Clerk noted that the state does not require a permit for alcohol served at a private property. Mr. Tilly would be required to have a permit because he is a beer wholesaler planning a public event at which the beer would be served.

Mr. Plew reiterated that the area in which Mr. Tilly planned to host the party is conducive to a large gathering, rather than a private party.

Stephen Michel asked whether the MHBC has liability insurance.

Donna DeAngelis asked whether Mr. Tilly would be liable if there was property damage or personal injury as a result of the event. Mr. Tilly noted that he believed he had an ethical obligation in this case, and that he does have insurance, but was not aware of the specifics of his liability policy.

Mr. Unterman asked whether anything else aside from beer will be served. Mr. Tilly said beer and water are the only beverages that will be served, and that mention of a "full tiki bar" on event promotions were intended to be "tongue-and-cheek."

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Mr. Chase noted that Mr. Tilly did not appear to have done sufficient planning for the event, and that, out of respect to the town and the time of the Select Board, more planning would have been appropriate in this instance. He added that the Town supports MHBC, but that planning for events needs to be done in a respectful way for the community. Mr. Chase advised Mr. Tilly to put more thought into his plans going forward.

Ms. Carol Garrow-Woolley, Town Clerk, noted that she looked up Mr. Tilly's permit on the state liquor control board's portal, and that the permit has not been accepted as of yet; it is a "draft permit," i.e. not yet available for Town approval. Because the state requires permits to be filed at least 15 days prior to the event, she noted that the event could not be approved in time.

Mr. Tilly apologized for causing frustration and indicated that he was not aware of community concerns.

Mr. Unterman reiterated that the Town supports Mr. Tilly's business but recommended that messaging be put out on social media to indicate that the event would not be able to take place in Mount Holly.

Mr. Turco affirmed that the Town supports the business, but that this process was surprising to the Town and offered too short notice for the necessary planning and approvals.

Mr. Joe McDonald asked whether Mr. Tilly would message his social media followers to identify changes to the event; Mr. Tilly indicated that he would move the venue for his event to take place outside of Mount Holly, and that he would update his marketing.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.**