

Janice Rockwood

From: Cory Smith <cory@blackpondbrews.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment for Special Town Council Meeting

My name is Cory Smith, co-founder of Black Pond Brews at 21 Furnace Street in Danielson.

The new restrictions on our local businesses are overly burdensome and do not have any relevance to public health.

We have been complying with public health guidelines by installing plexiglass dividers between tables, limiting party size, and encouraging outdoor seating by purchasing outdoor heaters. All staff wear masks while working and clean and disinfect commonly used areas frequently. We do this out of care for our customers and our staff with the knowledge that these measures are scientifically proven to be effective ways to mitigate viral spread.

However, beginning with the Phase 1 re-opening, breweries that were never required to provide food were now being forced to provide an amenity they had never been required to provide before, and therefore unprepared to do so. Not only does not having something to eat have anything to do with viral spread, it is an undue burden on facilities with limited space and staff. While food trucks would satisfy the food requirement, there are not a plethora of options in our area, and in the event that the food truck were to cancel, or have their truck break down, we would be out of luck for the day.

Previously, in partnership with the Town of Killingly, we proposed a plan to always have menus to our two neighbors, New York Pizza Company and Pizza Pizzazz, to satisfy the food requirement and support our friends in business.

However, this arrangement may no longer be acceptable according to the executive orders. Despite restaurants and breweries not being implicated in large spreading events, we are the ones who have to suffer.

We ask that the Town of Killingly be given the ability to govern its community's health and not be tasked with enforcement of laws that are not in the public interest. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our customers and staff, and will not compromise on that, but enforcing unnecessary burdens on our businesses in a time where it is already so hard to be able to provide for our families is not in the interest of public health nor our local economy.

Thank you for your time.

Cory Smith

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Co-Founder/Head Brewer/Head of Operations

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