



## Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, July 23, 2020

**CONTACT**

Cyndi Roy Gonzalez

[croygonzalez@needhamma.gov](mailto:croygonzalez@needhamma.gov)

Cell: 781-675-0394

### **Town of Needham Cuts Liquor License Fees in Half to Support Local Restaurants**

*New license fees take effect January 2021*

NEEDHAM – Thursday, July 23, 2020 – Continuing its efforts to support Needham’s local restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Select Board voted Tuesday evening to cut in half the annual liquor license fees for restaurants, hotels and clubs in Needham in 2021.

“As the pandemic continues and our restaurants and small businesses work hard to survive, the Town is seeking ways in which we can support our local economy,” said Select Board member Marianne Cooley. “Helping restaurants reduce their costs is one simple thing we can do to ensure they remain a vibrant part of our community.”

“Given what our industry has been going through, the vote from the Select Board last night is a game changer, said Paul Turano, Chef/Owner of Cook Restaurant. “As we approach the Fall with such uncertainty, renewal costs are a major concern. Needham’s willingness to work with its restaurants could be the difference between us staying open, or many closing their doors.”

“We’re grateful for the Select Board’s help,” said Stuart Henry, owner of The James Pub & Provisions. “It’s going to be a long haul to get back to normal and anything like this helps.”

The new license fees, which take effect January 1, 2021, are as follows. This rate is effective for your license renewal which happen during the period of October – December 2020 for Calendar Year 2021.

#### **On Premise Alcoholic Beverage**

Innholders – reduce to **\$2,262** (from \$4,525)

Restaurants – All Alcoholic **\$2,012** (from \$4,025)

Restaurants – Wine /Malt **\$750** (from \$1,500)

Clubs - **\$255** (from \$510)

In addition to reducing liquor license fees, the Town has worked with local restaurants to create expanded or new outdoor patio seating. The Town also placed picnic tables on Town property to

encourage residents to enjoy their takeout food and beverages outdoors and eliminated parking meter fees for the summer. The Town is continuing to work with restaurants and other small businesses to find way to continue to support them.

###