

From: JO ANNE PRESTON <ja-preston@comcast.net>
To: achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 06/21/2018 08:32 AM
Subject: meeting about neighborhood opposition to Whittemore Park beer garden

Adam,

Many of my neighbors are upset about Whittemore Park being used by a Somerville Beer Company most of the summer weekend days and nights, precluding their traditional uses of the park including bringing their children to play on the railroad tracks.

They have asked me to contact you. Can I meet with you today to better understand this project and how residents can have more access to the park?

Jo Anne

From: Martha Ingols <42itous@gmail.com>
To: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 06/15/2018 10:02 PM
Subject: Beer Garden

Dear Ms Krepelka,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the idea of a beer garden in Arlington Center. While it's laudable to attract foot traffic, this method wouldn't benefit the town much. More importantly, it's a missed opportunity to solve two problems with one solution.

A beer garden would compete with local businesses much more than it would help bring patrons to them. It would put undue demands on public restrooms. It might attract many bicyclists who don't want to drive after drinking, but where would they park their bikes? And that's not to mention that biking is even less safe while intoxicated than driving is!

My main concern with the beer garden is that it excludes the very group that the town should be trying hardest to serve: those who are below legal drinking age but too cool to hang out with their parents. Teens are at high risk of developing damaging habits like underage drinking, smoking, and drug abuse. Arlington could help to mitigate that risk by offering programs that might appeal to those teens.

Let's welcome people of all ages to Whittemore Park and other public spaces in Arlington with concerts, or DIY workshops, or talent shows, or dances. A beer garden might be nice a couple of days a year, but not every weekend, all weekend.

Thank you for your consideration,

Martha Ingols

From: Ted Peluso <tedpeluso@gmail.com>
To: Joseph Curro <jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu>
Angela Olszewski <amolyszewski@gmail.com>, Adam Chapdelaine <achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>,
Cc: Jenny Raitt <JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us>, Ali Carter <acarter@town.arlington.ma.us>, Robert Bowes
<rbowes@bowesre.com>, Robert Radochia <bobrj.rad@gmail.com>, Bob Sprague
<sprague.bob@gmail.com>, billy lyons <williamlyons@live.com>
Date: 06/21/2018 10:49 AM
Subject: Fwd: [arlington] Selling beer in Whittemore Park

If you've read various comments on the "List" please pardon me for sending this one. The lady is 100% correct in her observations. She's had other emails on the subject as well with lots of reasons why you folks should not approve a beer garden and maybe even worse managed by an out of town entity. But I wouldn't approve it even if it were a Town business making the proposal. I urge you to vote against the beer garden proposal, and personally, if I owned NYAJ or other Town restaurants/bars, I'd be outraged. I do not know whether ATED would agree with me, I suspect they would. But this is counter-productive to its mandate in my opinion, and of course establishes "a dangerous" precedent for Town facilities use. Added to all the reasons it doesn't fly with me, is the potential exposure when a beer-drinker has an accident (and it will happen I'll bet) and he's/she's been affected by drinking on an approved Town property location. Please influence your fellow decision-makers, if you can, to turn this down.

Ted

PS- If you guys should regrettably decide to go ahead with it, however, I'd certainly seek Town Meeting's prior approval to offer you some coverage for what could be not only agreeing to create an "uncompetitive" situation for Town restaurants, but even potential extra legal Town exposure if there are accidents by drivers, bikers or even walkers.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Theodore Peluso <tedpeluso@verizon.net>
Date: Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 9:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: [arlington] Selling beer in Whittemore Park
To: tedpeluso@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: JO ANNE PRESTON <ja-preston@comcast.net>
To: arlington <arlington@arlingtonlist.org>
Sent: Thu, Jun 21, 2018 8:17 am
Subject: [arlington] Selling beer in Whittemore Park

Just some responses to recent posts:

1) community? Unlike most European beer parks this one will not have tables and chairs. You can sit on the ground or stand and drink beer. The entire park will be cordoned off and those under twenty-one will not be able to use the park unless they are supervised by their parents. For instance, my 20 year old daughter will no longer be able to hang there with her friends eating ice cream cones weekends until the end of September. The loud music (when they have it) will not lead to productive conversations. It is unlikely, parents will want to bring their small children to play on the railroad tracks which will

be mostly covered by a music stage.

The entire intent I was told by an Arlington business owner was to get out-town bicycle riders on the bike path to stop to drink beer and then buy stuff at Arlington Center businesses. I am not sure how likely that will be for the businesses, but the whole event is to create a new source of customers, not for community-building. When I asked him about the people who use the park now for shade and other quiet activities on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer, especially the seniors who live in the two nearby senior housing, he told me that they can just walk to another park.

2) monetary gain? The beer selling proposal is all about monetary gain but not for the taxpayers of Arlington. The 250 beer drinkers each day and night (the number cited by the Somerville company) will create a great deal of wear and tear on the park and, for course, the two bathrooms in the historic house (think of 250 people using your back yard every Saturday and Sunday for three months and your bathrooms). Four hundred dollars will not nearly cover for the needed repairs and additional maintenance of this intense use. The town manger told the Select Board that he wanted this beer business to succeed so he didn't want to ask for any significant amount of money. In effect, we are all financially supporting this startup effort.

At the final design presentation for the Whittemore Park last night, it became clearer and clearer to me that the redesign of the Whittemore Park was to ready it for this commercial use. And who will pay for this very expensive rebuild and the same as being asked to approve two large tax increases next Spring? The taxpayers of Arlington who, at the same time, will be extremely limited in their traditional use of the park during the most heavily use of parks -- summer weekends.

Essentially, the park will now be privatized and no longer a public park yet supported by public funds. The Select Board will make their finally decision on the Somerville Beer Company's 30 plus permits (one for each 8-10 hour day) for \$400 on Monday night.

Jo Anne

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