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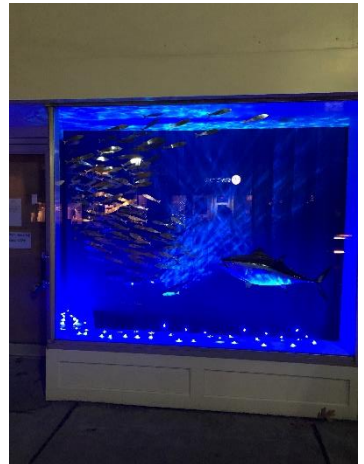
Revised Alcohol Law Helps Bring New Restaurants to Wellesley

January 26, 2022 (Wellesley, MA) – Interested in opening a restaurant in Wellesley? Changes to the Town’s alcohol bylaw are making it a little easier now. Special legislation that went into effect in January 2022 allows the Wellesley Select Board to approve alcohol licenses for restaurants and function rooms with fewer than 50 seats. The hope is that this change will make Wellesley a more attractive location for smaller-sized establishments.

The [modification was presented](#) at Wellesley’s 2021 Annual Town Meeting last April where it was approved by more than 200 Town Meeting Members and strongly supported by local restaurants. Since this change amended the Town’s Special Act governing alcohol, the legislation also required approval from the Massachusetts Senate, House of Representatives, and Governor Charlie Baker.

Laughing Monk Café, a sushi restaurant opening at 90 Central Street, is the first small restaurant to take advantage of the bylaw change. On January 18, the Select Board approved the alcohol license for the 20-seat restaurant, which hopes to open to the public in March. Owner Dome Nakapakorn said he’s “excited for the opportunity to be part of the Wellesley restaurant community.” He and the restaurant’s chef, known as Chef Nick, created a whimsical window display showing a Bluefin Tuna chasing a school of silver fish to help promote the new place.

Along with the bylaw change, last fall the Select Board reviewed the [Rules and Regulations Governing Alcohol](#) and made some significant modifications. The updates included removing the intent to dine policy - diners in Wellesley can now order alcohol without ordering food, increasing the number of bar seats allowed, and several other changes aimed to make it easier and more attractive for restaurants to operate in Wellesley.



“We’ve received positive feedback on the bylaw change and other revisions to the regulations and hope these efforts will draw smaller, imaginative restaurants to Town,” said Wellesley’s Assistant Executive Director Amy Frigulietti. “We’re committed to working with them and with all of our businesses on plans to revitalize our commercial areas.”

Other restaurants scheduled to open in the coming months in Wellesley’s business districts are:

- Lockheart Kitchen & Bar – 102 Central Street (former B. Good location)
- La Toscana Pizzeria – 99 Central Street (former Upper Crust Pizza location)
- Tatte Bakery – Linden Square (former California Pizza Kitchen location)

These policy changes were effective in November. The revised and signed alcohol regulations are posted on the [Town of Wellesley website](#).